

Solar Panel



FBI agent carry a box of evidence from Solyndra headquarters in Fremont, Calif. The FBI are executing search warrants at the headquarters of California solar firm Solyndra that received a \$535 million loan from the federal government.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

JACK GILLUM

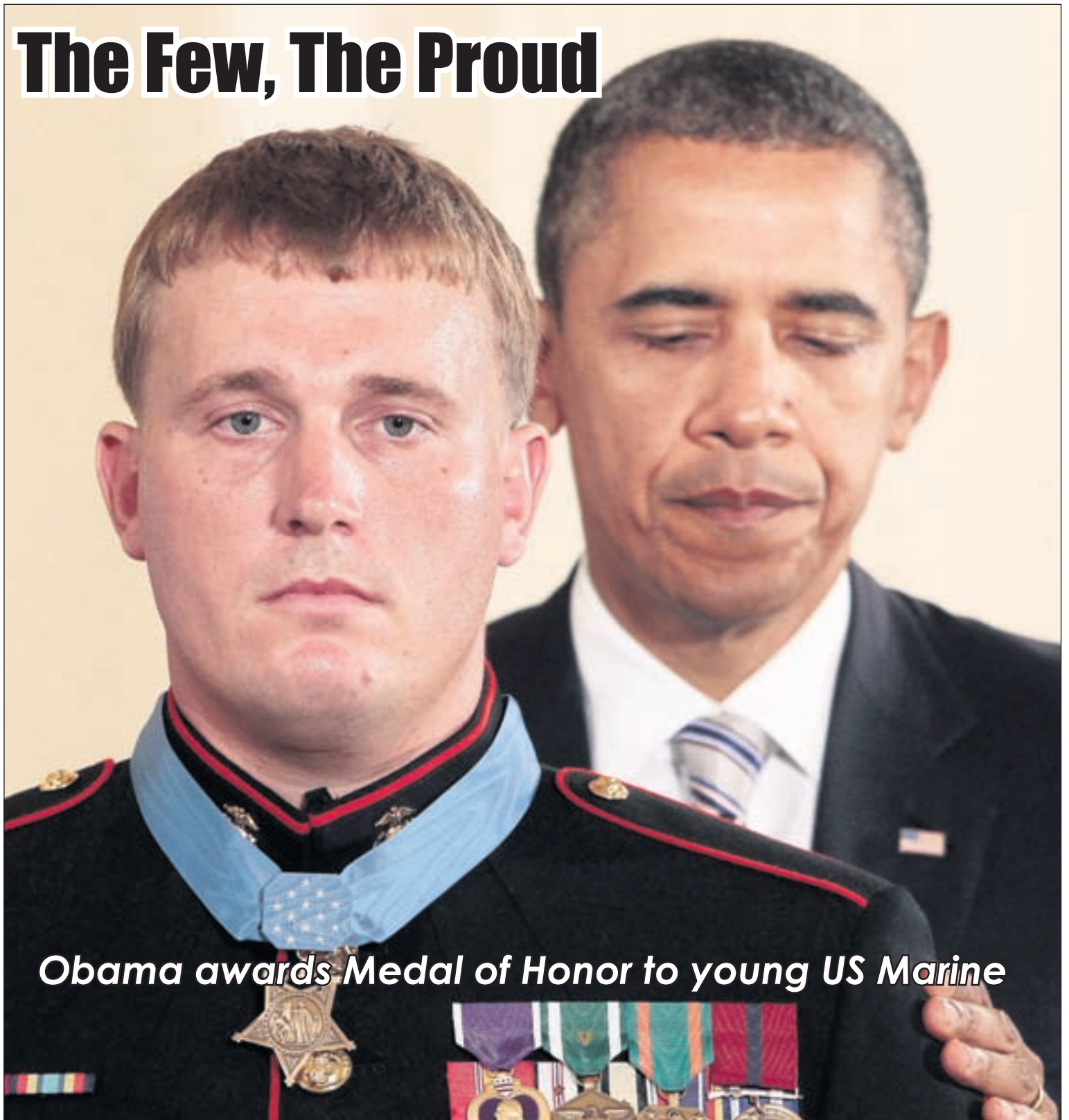
KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in the House of Representatives have questioned whether the White House rushed approval of a half-billion-dollar loan guarantee for a now-bankrupt solar panel manufacturer once cited as the kind of renewable energy company worthy of federal stimulus money. Solyndra Inc. was a major presence in Washington and spent millions of dollars on lobbying there, particularly about the Energy Department's loan guarantee program. And its executives raised thousands of dollars for Obama and Democrats in Congress. The collapse of the California-based company once touted by President Barack Obama ultimately left taxpayers on the hook for \$528 million, raising questions if the loan was rushed to accommodate a company event in September 2009 that featured Vice President Joe Biden.

Continued on Page 2

The Few, The Proud



Obama awards Medal of Honor to young US Marine

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to former Marine Corps Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 23, from Greensburg, Ky., Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Meyer was in Afghanistan's Kunar province in Sept. 2009 when he repeatedly ran through enemy fire to recover the bodies of fellow American troops. He is the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Thursday bestowed the highest U.S. military honor on Dakota Meyer, a young and humble Marine who defied orders and barreled straight into a ferocious "killing zone" in Afghanistan to save 36 lives at extraordi-

nary risk to himself.

"You did your duty, above and beyond," Obama told Meyer after reciting his dramatic story. Though the corporal and a fellow Marine were going against orders — commanders considered their effort too dangerous — they were doing what they thought was right, Obama said.

The president placed the Medal of Honor ribbon around Meyer's neck, patted his back and shook his hand as the audience in the White House East Room applauded. At age 21, Meyer charged through heavy insurgent gunfire on five death-defying trips in an armored Humvee to save 13 Marines and Army

soldiers and an additional 23 Afghan troops pinned down by withering enemy fire. Meyer killed at least eight insurgents despite suffering a shrapnel wound in his arm as he manned the gun turret of the Humvee and provided covering fire for the soldiers, according to the military.

Continued on Page 2

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Lawmakers probe how failed solar company got \$528M loan



President Obama, center, is given a tour of Solyndra by Executive Vice President Ben Bierman, right, as Chief Executive Officer Chris Gronet, left, walks along at Solyndra Inc. in Fremont, Calif. FBI spokesman Peter Lee says agents executed multiple search warrants at the company's headquarters in Fremont as part of an investigation with the Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General.

(AP Photo/Paul Chinn, Pool, File)

Continued from front

The Solyndra fallout comes at an embarrassing time for the White House, while Obama is traveling the country promoting his jobs plan, which includes more investments in renewable energy. The congressional

panel examining the loan disclosed emails that appeared to show senior staff at the Office of Management and Budget chafing about having to conduct "rushed approvals" of federal loan guarantees designed to help jumpstart

the U.S. renewable energy industry. "We would prefer to have sufficient time to do our due diligence reviews and have the approval set the date for the announcement rather than the other way around," said one of the emails from an unnamed OMB aide to Biden's office. Obama cited Solyndra as an example of how the economic stimulus bill would create jobs. But the company has since filed for bankruptcy and shed 1,100 workers, saying it couldn't compete with foreign manufacturers of solar panels. Documents reviewed by The Associated Press show Solyndra spent nearly \$2 million lobbying the federal government during the last four years, including on provisions of the Energy Department's loan program just months before White House officials urged that the funds be approved. □

Traffic flows at damaged Mexico border crossing

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Traffic flowed smoothly at the nation's busiest border crossing Thursday as crews removed scaffolding that collapsed on more than a dozen cars and authorities tried to determine when it would be safe to fully reopen. Travelers speculated that

other commuters stayed home in Tijuana, Mexico when faced with the prospect of nightmarish waits at the San Ysidro port of entry to San Diego. To their delight, they found waits were about half the usual time. Nicolas Gonzales, 25, of Tijuana, set his alarm for 5 a.m., a half-hour early. He crosses daily and usually

waits an hour to walk across on his way work at a Taco Bell in suburban Chula Vista. He got through in about 30 minutes and used the extra time to join friends for breakfast. "Normally, I'm running to get to work on time," said Gonzales, who declined his supervisor's offer to miss work without pay. "Today, it's been very relaxed." □



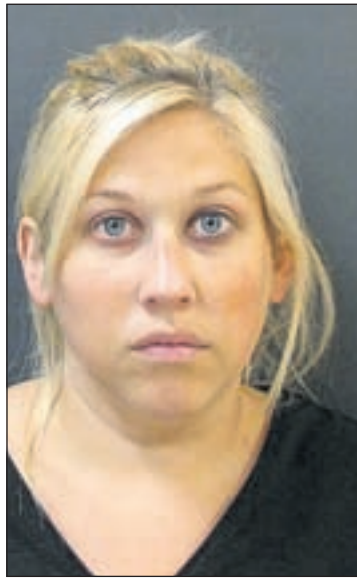
Obama awards Medal of Honor to young US Marine

Continued from front

He had been supporting a patrol on Sept. 8, 2009, into a village in the Ganjgal Valley on the day of the ambush. Meyer and the other Americans had gone to the area to train Afghan military members when, suddenly, the village lights went out and gunfire erupted. About 50 Taliban insurgents on mountainsides and in the village ambushed the patrol. As the forward team called for air support that wasn't coming, Meyer, a corporal at the time, begged his command to let him head into the incoming fire to help. Four times he was denied his request before Meyer and another Marine, Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez-Chavez, jumped into the

Humvee and headed into the fray. For his valor, Rodriguez-Chavez, a 34-year-old who hailed originally from Acuna, Mexico, would be awarded the Navy Cross. "They told him he couldn't go in," said Dwight Meyer, Dakota Meyer's 81-year-old grandfather, a former Marine who served in the 1950s. "He told them, 'The hell I'm not,' and he went in. It's a one-in-a-million thing" that he survived. Meyer and Rodriguez-Chavez began evacuating wounded Marines and American and Afghan soldiers to a safe point. Meyer made five trips into the kill zone, each time searching for the forward patrol with his Marine friends — including 1st Lt. Michael Johnson — whom Meyer had heard yelling on the radio for air support. □

US mom tells police she smothered newborn twins



This undated booking photo provided by the Sumner County Sheriff's Office in Gallatin, Tenn. shows 25-year-old Lindsey Lowe. Police say Lowe has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of her newborn twin boys found in her home just north of Nashville.

(AP Photo/Sumner County Sheriff's Office)

TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press
HENDERSONVILLE,

Tennessee (AP) — A young mother charged with murder has told police she hid her pregnancy, gave birth to twin sons at her family's home and killed the infants by smothering their cries so her parents wouldn't hear them.

Police in the Nashville suburb of Hendersonville arrested Lindsey Lowe, 25, on Wednesday after her father discovered one baby's body in a laundry basket.

According to a police affidavit, the young mother

said she didn't tell her family she was pregnant, but believes she got pregnant in January and never visited a doctor. Police said on Thursday they were trying to identify the father of the twins.

Police said they interviewed Lowe who said she went into labor on Monday evening while on the toilet at her parent's home. She said the first baby fell into the toilet and began to cry. "Lowe stated that the baby was crying and Lowe did not want her parents to hear and find out about the child," police wrote in the affidavit. "Lowe stated that she put her hand over the child's mouth and she stated that she kept it there until the child was dead, which was a couple of minutes."

A few minutes later, the affidavit says, she gave birth to the second child, who also fell in the toilet. She again put her hand over the baby's mouth and held it there until the baby died, which she said took less time than the first child. She put both babies in the laundry basket and covered them up with blankets.

Lowe said she never checked the sex of the child. Police said both boys appeared to be full term and weighing about 5 or 6 pounds (2.3 to 2.7 kilograms).

Lowe, who works at a pediatric dentist's office, was charged with first-degree murder and remained in jail Thursday with no bond. □

Stepmom pleads guilty in disabled girl's murder

MITCH WEISS

Associated Press

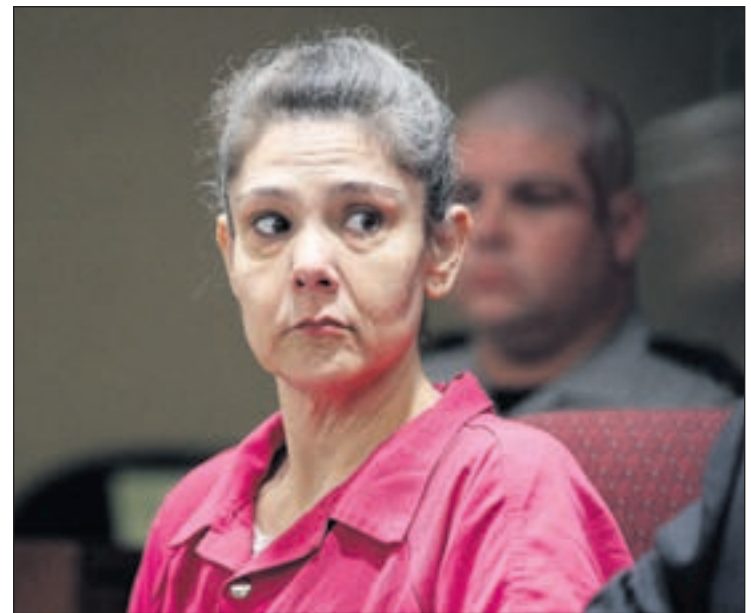
NEWTON, North Carolina (AP)

— A North Carolina woman pleaded guilty Thursday to murdering her disabled 10-year-old stepdaughter, nearly a year after freckle-faced Zahra Baker's disappearance and death shocked communities here and in her native Australia. Elisa Baker, 43, entered the courtroom wearing a hot-pink jail jumpsuit and handcuffs. She sat between two defense attorneys and teared up before pleading guilty to second-degree murder, with aggravating factors that included desecrating the body of Zahra Baker, who wore a prosthetic leg and hearing aids after a struggle with bone cancer.

Elisa Baker also pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the case, and to charges unrelated to Zahra's death, including obtaining property by false pretenses and financial identity fraud.

Prosecutors were presenting testimony from witnesses Thursday morning prior to Baker's sentencing.

Adam Baker, Zahra's father and Elisa's husband, was present in the courtroom in Newton, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Charlotte. Adam Baker, who came to the U.S. with his daughter after meeting Elisa online, faces multiple criminal charges of his own, although none are related to his daughter's death.



Elisa Baker looks on Catawba County court in Newton, N.C., Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011. Baker pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of her disabled 10-year-old stepdaughter, Zahra Baker, nearly a year after freckle-faced girl's disappearance and death shocked communities here and in her native Australia.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

Elisa Baker's guilty plea comes almost a year after Zahra was reported missing from her home in Hickory. Initially, she and Adam told police they believed their daughter had been kidnapped, but that story quickly unraveled as police arrested Elisa and charged her with forging a ransom note.

Not long after her arrest, Elisa Baker began cooperating with police searching for the girl, according to warrants unsealed in the case. She told police that Zahra had been dismembered, and led them to some of the girl's remains at sites in Catawba and Caldwell counties.

She told police that Adam Baker helped scatter the remains, but cell phone records showed he

was in different locations on the days when Elisa said Zahra's body parts were disposed of.

Zahra's death was caused by "undetermined homicidal violence," medical examiners said in documents.

An autopsy was done even though authorities hadn't recovered many bones, most notably the girl's skull, months after she was reported missing. Several bones showed cutting tool marks consistent with dismemberment.

The case revealed Elisa Baker as a woman with a troubled past, constantly shifting addresses and staying one step ahead of bill collectors and county social service agencies investigating reports of child abuse. □

US probe seeks to change immigrant fingerprint use

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— A group that reviewed the Department of Homeland Security's controversial effort to identify illegal immigrants is recommending that federal officials use the program to identify serious criminals and not people accused only of minor traffic offenses.

The group's report also recommends that DHS officials clarify "the goal and objectives of the Secure Com-

munities ... and accurately relay this information" to local jurisdictions where fingerprints collected at jails and sent to the FBI are then used to identify and detain illegal immigrants.

Critics of Secure Communities, including immigrant advocates and law enforcers, have said the program casts too wide a net in the search for illegal immigrants.

There also have been complaints that Secure Communities was pitched ini-

tially to local jurisdictions as optional, although in recent months Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton has said there is no way for local authorities to opt out of the program that allows fingerprints sent to the FBI to be compared to an immigration database.

In August, Morton announced the agency was canceling previously signed agreements with states, saying state permission was not necessary.

In the report, the task force said eliminating traffic violators and misdemeanor offenders from the program, or starting deportation proceedings only for those convicted of a misdemeanor, "would discourage minor arrests undertaken only to channel noncitizens into the (immigration) system."

The task force also said that crime and domestic victims and witnesses "must not be subject to enforcement actions."

According to the report, the group was divided whether to recommend that the program be suspended until the problems are resolved.

Last month, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said the department would launch a case-by-case review of the nearly 300,000 deportation cases already in the immigration court system and put an indefinite hold on most cases involving people with no criminal history. □

US state court hears police torture arguments

KAREN HAWKINS
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (AP)

— Illinois Supreme Court justices questioned prosecutors Thursday about evidence in the rape conviction of a man who says he was tortured into confessing by Chicago police officers.

In oral arguments in a case with potentially far-reaching impact on how Illinois deals with police torture cases — and one that could lay the groundwork for similar appeals by as many as 20 other inmates — prosecutors argued that the state had enough evidence to convict inmate Stanley Wrice without the confession he claims to have given only after being tortured by officers under the command of notorious Lt. Jon Burge 30 years ago. But the justices pressed Special Prosecutor Myles O'Rourke about the strength of the state's other evidence, noting that there was no DNA or fingerprints introduced at trial when Wrice was convicted.

Wrice is asking the high court for a new hearing on his long-standing torture claims. The outcome of the case is being closely monitored by about 20 other inmates who say Burge's officers forced them to confess to crimes they didn't commit,

and lawyers and experts say the case could lay the groundwork for similar appeals by those inmates.

In her appearance before the court, Wrice attorney Heidi Lambros made an impassioned plea to the justices to take a stand against

"the very bad blight from Jon Burge and these torture cases."

"This court should not tolerate the torture of its citizens within its walls," Lambros said.

Burge is serving a 4 ½-year sentence in federal prison following his conviction last year of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying in a civil suit when he said he'd never witnessed or participated in the torture

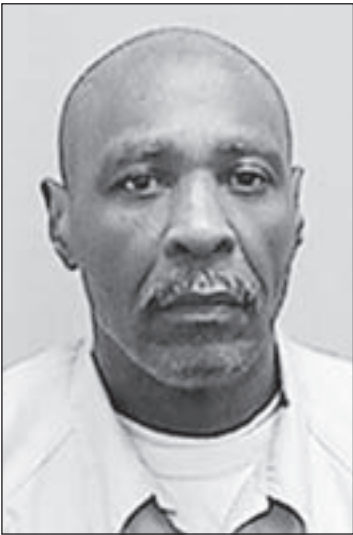


Photo shows prison inmate Stanley Wrice. On Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, the Illinois Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of Wrice, a Chicago man who's spent nearly 30 years behind bars for a crime he says police brutalized him into wrongfully confessing to committing. Wrice's lawyers say he's seeking a fair hearing on his torture claims for the first time and the chance to be tried without what they say is a tainted confession.

(AP Photo/Illinois Department of Corrections, File)

of suspects.

Wrice is serving a 100-year-sentence. Wrice is one of dozens of men, almost all of them young and black, who have claimed since the 1970s that Burge and his officers tortured them into confessing to crimes ranging from armed robbery to murder. Allegations persisted until the 1990s at police stations on the city's South and West sides. □

Talk of Social Security revamp as old as the program itself

JOE HOLLEY

© 2010 Houston Chronicle

If Rick Perry wanted to start what he calls "a national conversation" about Social Security, he certainly got his wish.

Commentators, the media and his fellow candidates all have homed in on his Ponzi scheme vilification of the venerable government program,

his insistence that it's a "monstrous lie" perpetrated upon young Americans. At the Tea Party/CNN debate in Tampa Monday night, chief rival Mitt Romney sought to fasten Perry to the incendiary language of his book "Fed Up." The governor resisted — as he has for some weeks now — by claiming that "we ought to have a conversation." Romney interrupted. "We're having that conversation right now, governor," he said.

"We're running for president."

It actually is a conversation of long standing. Despite the old saw that the federal retirement program is the "third rail" of political discourse, to be avoided by any temperate candidate, it regularly has been a hot topic of debate.

All that is different this year is the unbridled language of Perry — and the possibility that he may have found a



Republican Presidential candidate, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, gestures during a speech before a Virginia Republican fundraising event in Richmond. If Rick Perry wanted to start what he calls "a national conversation" about Social Security, he certainly got his wish at the Tea Party debate.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

receptive audience.

Former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, D-Mass., an urban politician who knew about third rails, coined the metaphor, but politicians have been sniping at the program since its creation in 1935, says Eric Kingon, a professor of social work at Syracuse University and an adviser to the 1982 National Commission on Social Security Reform.

"It was Alf Landon, the Republican presidential candidate in 1936, who called payroll tax contributions worthless IOUs," he said. "There have been ongoing criticisms and attacks ever since." □

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Alexander Hamilton's at home

EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

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NEW YORK — When you look at Alexander Hamilton's home comfortably nestled on the sloping hillside of St. Nicholas Park in an area of northern Manhattan that has long been known as Hamilton Heights, it almost seems to be ... well ... at home.

Admittedly there are a few jarring juxtapositions with nearby buildings, none of which can claim anything close to its 1802 vintage. And there is the sense you often have in New York City when a free-standing house looks as though it should have far more space surrounding it than it does. And originally this two-story house did indeed sit atop a plot of land — a little over 32 acres — that Hamilton purchased here and named the Grange.

That elevation allowed views of both the Hudson and Harlem rivers from the house's capacious windows and from the long piazzas that stretch along

its sides.

Those porches still give its Federalist-style solidity a faint hint of more Southern climes, thoroughly appropriate to its original owner, who was born, after



The newly renovated Hamilton Grange, built in 1802 and once the home of Alexander Hamilton, in New York, Sept. 13, 2011. The house, which is reopening this Saturday in St. Nicholas Park of Hamilton Heights, has relocated twice and undergone a \$14.5 million renovation.

(Joshua Bright/The New York Times)

all, in the West Indies.

But with its reopening Saturday under the auspices of the National Park Service after a relocation and five years of

renovations costing \$14.5 million, this house may have finally found a home.

The building has actually been moved twice, the first time in 1889 (Hamilton's widow had sold it in 1833),

as the Manhattan street grid was creeping north. A developer donated it to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, which moved it 250 feet from its original hilltop to

Convent Avenue at 141st Street, where it was used for worship.

Over time it became hemmed in, by St. Luke's new Romanesque building and by an apartment house that hugged its opposite side.

Though stripped of its porches and in disrepair it became a National Memorial in 1962; the National Park Service was given the house on the condition that it be moved and renovated. By the time that became plausible, in the 1990s, there was substantial neighborhood opposition to moving the house.

Finally, in 2008, the house was mounted on hydraulic lifts, raised above the loggia of the church and rolled on dollies around the corner to the north end of St. Nicholas Park, where it now sits. But nothing about this journey has been easy. For more than a century the house has endured exile, migration and neglect,

while inspiring dismay, controversy and much devotion.

This fate is not dissimilar to that of Hamilton himself, who has, for much of the last 200 years, been in the shadow of his fellow founding fathers. Unlike Washington and Jefferson, Hamilton was not born into the landed gentry. (This house is no Monticello or Mount Vernon.) Unlike them he was not a slaveholder. (He was active in the Manumission Society.) Unlike them he was an immigrant (from the Caribbean island of Nevis) without a respectable background.

(He was the illegitimate son of a hapless Scottish merchant.) And unlike them too he had an entrepreneurial vision of the new nation, believing in manufacture as much as farming. His sympathies were urban rather than rural; he was probably the first renowned New Yorker in the U.S. □

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The company you keep matters

ANN CARRNS

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One of the biggest challenges of relocating after retirement is making new acquaintances.

"I couldn't imagine going to a location where I didn't know anyone," said Karen McGuire, 61, who along with her husband, Brian Hughes, just bought a house to which they plan eventually to retire, a stone's throw from longtime friends on Cape Cod.

While some people want to move closer to friends after retirement, others try to coordinate a plan ahead of time to move together to a new location – a different home in the same town, another town in the same area, a new community thousands of miles away.

"What's happening now is people are realizing they don't have to start all over again; they can take their friends with them," said Marc Freedman, founder of Civic Ventures, a nonprofit organization that seeks to expand opportunities for older Americans, and the author of several books about the changing nature of retirement. "There is more of a sense of people being more active in the housing decision process."

Many people approaching retirement age are thinking not just about where they want to live after they leave their longtime careers and what sort of home they want, but also about what sort of activities they will do – and whom they want nearby. "There are so many options open to the boomer generation, compared with our parents," said Dorian Mintzer, a retirement coach with many clients from that generation.

These additional choices come, in part, because the



Brian Hughes, left, and his wife, Karen McGuire, right, entertain friends and neighbors Lynne Conroy, second from right, and her husband, Bob Colford at their home in Hyannis Port, Mass. Many older Americans are planning their retirements in more detail, from their new communities to the hometown friends they want to bring with them.

(Bryce Vickmark/The New York Times)

housing industry has recognized the opportunity in the large number of boomers who will be retiring, creating "so many different options," said Nancy Thompson, a spokeswoman for AARP. While a majority of retirees don't relocate, she said, more are likely to in coming years, simply because there are more boomers. Mintzer noted, in particular, the emergence of the co-housing movement and the development of "village" networks that allow people to share services as they age. Some people plan to develop these projects themselves; others settle into existing developments and try to recruit friends and neighbors to join them. □



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UK, French leaders take the stage in Libya

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy offered broad support for Libya's new rulers Thursday, promising to unfreeze billions in assets and give help in finding Moammar Gadhafi, even as revolutionary forces attempted their first significant assault on the ousted leader's hometown.

The Western leaders — the first to visit since Tripoli fell late last month — got a welcome worthy of rock stars from jubilant Libyans grateful for NATO airstrikes that helped turn the tide of the war in their favor. Staff at a hospital in Tripoli applauded the two men as they visited patients who had been wounded in the fight-



French President Nicolas Sarkozy, left, Libya's NTC leader Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, center, and British Prime Minister David Cameron, right, gesture during their visit to Benghazi, Libya, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011. Cameron and Sarkozy gave Libya's new rulers strong support during a landmark visit to Tripoli on Thursday, vowing to release billions of dollars more in frozen assets and to push ahead with NATO strikes against Moammar Gadhafi's last strongholds.

(AP Photo/Philippe Wojazer, Pool)

ing, and schoolchildren in the eastern city of Benghazi wore T-shirts that said "Generations will never forget the favors and sup-

port from Great Britain" and "Sarkozy: Benghazi loves you."

But tight security in both cities was a reminder of the fact that Gadhafi is still on the run and his supporters are holding out in three major strongholds, including his hometown of Sirte. Gadhafi's spokesman, Moussa Ibrahim, chided the foreign leaders for their short trip, claiming that pro-Gadhafi fighters "are everywhere." He told the Syrian al-Rai TV station late Thursday, "This visit by Sarkozy and Cameron is a launch of an imperialist

project in Libya." Ibrahim did not say where he was, nor where Gadhafi was hiding.

In a surprise advance, revolutionary forces entered the outskirts of Sirte, 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli along the Mediterranean coast, on Thursday and were facing rocket fire, according to a member of the military council from the nearby city of Misrata, which was leading the assault. Ali Gliwan said fighters crossed a major highway overpass at the southwestern entrance

of the city of about 100,000 people, met by rocket fire from Gadhafi loyalists. Jalal el-Gallal, a spokesman for Libya's new leaders, said several thousand fighters were involved, backed with tanks and mechanized vehicles.

The fighters advanced into the city center, clashing with snipers holed up in a high-rise office tower — and with members of an elite unit of Gadhafi troops barricaded in a residence of the leader on the beach, Gliwan said. He reported four fighters on his side had been killed and seven wounded.

An Associated Press Television News reporter saw the bodies of four Gadhafi loyalists near a vehicle that apparently had been struck by NATO. Snipers fired at fighters in the center of town, although the revolutionary forces had largely pulled back to the outskirts by nightfall. It was unclear how decisive the entry into Sirte was, however. Last week, fighters claimed to have fought their way into another loyalist stronghold, Bani Walid, west of Sirte, but they were driven back by powerful resistance and their movement there has stalled. □



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Egypt regime insider guilty of corruption

AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court convicted a powerful steel magnate who was a senior insider in the ousted regime of Hosni Mubarak on corruption charges, sentencing him to 10 years in prison.

Ahmed Ezz was a top ally of the ousted president's son and heir apparent, Gamal Mubarak, and together they all but ran the ruling party.

Ezz became a symbol of

the intertwining of business and politics that many Egyptians despised as corrupt, helping fuel the anti-Mubarak uprising.

Ezz appeared in court wearing a prison uniform behind a defendants' cage. He can appeal the corruption conviction.

Also, former Trade Minister Rachid Mohammed Rachid, who remains at large,

was sentenced to 15 years in jail and ordered

to pay a \$237 million fine for approving production licenses to Ezz without auctioning them publicly first.

Rachid was convicted along with two businessmen earlier this year of squandering public funds and profiteering in a separate case.

In that case, he was sentenced in absentia to five years in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$800,000.

Thursday's verdict revoked the licenses of Ezz Steel and the Egyptian Sponge Iron and Steel Co. □

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NATO chief urges Kosovo, Serbia for restraint

NEBI QENA

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) —

NATO will not allow the Balkan region to slip back into violence amid simmering tensions between Kosovo and Serbia over a border dispute, the alliance's secretary-general said Thursday. Anders Fogh Rasmussen arrived in Kosovo for a brief visit to ease tensions a day before Kosovo authorities set up customs points on two disputed border crossings with Serbia as part of an EU-brokered deal to resume trade between the former foes.

"Let me be very clear: there can be no turning back," Fogh Rasmussen told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Hashim Thaci. "NATO has spent 12 years ensuring stability and security we will not allow that achievement to be put at risk."



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen gestures during a news conference in Pristina, Kosovo, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011. Rasmussen said that NATO will not allow the region to slip back to violence.

(AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu)

The top NATO official said recent violence in the border area that left a policeman dead was "bad for the image of Kosovo and a clear setback for the progress achieved."

In a worrying sign of mounting tensions, the head of the Serb Orthodox Church, Patriarch Irinej, called upon Serbs to stay on and sacrifice themselves for Kosovo.

"If you are in a situation to shed blood, know why you are doing this. It is not in vain," Irinej told Serb faithful in the Serb-run part of

the ethnically split town of Mitrovica. "It is sacred martyrdom in defense of the holy land. Stay and fight on this holy land for you will not find a better one."

Serbia, which considers Kosovo the cradle of its statehood and religion, does not recognize Kosovo's independence. In addition, Serbs in the northern part of the former province do not recognize the government in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Kosovo's 2008 secession from Serbia is backed by more than 80 countries, but strongly rejected by Serbian ally Russia.

Speaking at a security conference in Belgrade, Serbia's president, Boris Tadic, once again warned against the planned customs takeover saying it would "seriously endanger peace and stability" in the region. □

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Defying US, Palestinians press forward with UN bid

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— In a direct challenge to the United States, the Palestinians said Thursday they will ask the Security Council next week to accept them as a full member of the United Nations, even though Washington has promised to veto the measure.

The Palestinian assertion came as a senior U.S. diplomatic team was in the region trying to avert an embarrassing showdown and relaunch peace talks. By pushing forward, the Palestinians risk putting President Barack Obama in the uneasy position of having to veto a measure supported by the vast majority of the international community.

Foreign Minister Riad Malki told foreign journalists the Palestinians were not looking for a fight. But he said the American stance puts the U.S. in a "confrontational position" with the rest of the world, and suggested American credibility could be at stake.

"I don't know what it means to the standing of the U.S. in the United Nations and among the countries of the world," he said.

Even so, the Palestinians left the door open for compromise.

Malki said the Palestinians were still ready to listen to suggestions from American envoys.

And in New York, his U.N. ambassador, Riyad Mansour, said a final decision on whether to pursue recognition in the Security Council, or seek a lesser, symbolic status in the General As-

sembly had not yet been made.

"The final decision will be taken in the next few days as to which path we will follow," Mansour said.

Asked about his boss's comments in Ramallah, he replied: "There are many words from many places, but what I'm telling you is that we are deliberating all these details and it is not yet finalized."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was to give a speech Friday in Ramallah and there was speculation he might address the issue then.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney emphasized that negotiation with Israel was the only viable path to Palestinian statehood.

"The Palestinians will not and cannot achieve statehood through a declaration at the United Nations. It



Children wait before a demonstration in support of the Palestinian bid for statehood, outside the Church of the Nativity, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is set to address the U.N. next week, planning to ask the world to recognize a Palestinian state. (AP Photo/Tara Todras-Whitehill)

is a distraction, and in fact, it's counterproductive," he said, adding that "the only way to resolve the issues between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and to ultimately create a Palestinian state, is through direct negotiations."

The Palestinians seek an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with east Jerusalem as their capital. Israel captured the territories in the 1967 Mid-east war.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu rejects a complete pullout from the West Bank and says Israel must retain east Jerusalem, which it considers an inseparable part of its capital. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

The Palestinians say they are turning to the U.N. in frustration after years of failed peace talks. While a U.N. vote will not change the situation on the ground, the Palestinians believe it will improve their position in future talks.

In particular, they say Israel must accept the 1967 borders as the basis of a future agreement.

By doing so, Malki argued Israel could help end its growing international isolation. Israel's relations with key regional allies Egypt, Turkey and Jordan have all grown rocky in recent months. □

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UK rescuers try to reach 4 trapped coal miners

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British rescue workers pumped water Thursday from a flooded coal mine in south Wales in an attempt to reach four trapped miners.

Rescuers said they had not been able to contact the men, trapped 300 feet (90 meters) underground at the Gleision Colliery near Swansea, and it wasn't immediately clear what condition they were in or what caused the mine to flood. Fire department official Chris Margetts said he was "very hopeful and optimistic" that the four miners could be rescued, through other officials acknowledged that rescuers had no communication with them.

"The good news is water levels are receding slowly," Mines Rescue Service official Mark Tibbott told Sky News television. He said four pumps were taking water out of the mine and he hoped the "men are in an air pocket."



Image released by South Wales Police on Thursday Sept 15 2011 of emergency workers at the scene in Gleision Colliery near Swansea, South Wales, where four men are trapped following structural damage. Rescuers said they had not been able to contact the men, trapped 300 feet (90 meters) underground, and it wasn't immediately clear what condition they were in or what caused the mine to flood.

(AP Photo/ Carl Ryan/South Wales Police)

The mine shaft was not blocked by fallen rock, but water was preventing emergency workers from reaching the men, South Wales Police Supt. Phil Davies said.

The trapped miners were identified as Phillip Hill, 45, Charles Bresnan, 62, David Powell, 50, and Garry Jenkins, 39.

Prime Minister David Cameron said the emergency services would be provided with any assistance they needed to carry out a rescue.

"My thoughts are with those missing and their family and friends at this very difficult time," Cameron said in a statement. "Every support will be given to the emergency services to ensure they continue to do all they can. In due course, we must ensure we fully understand and learn from the causes of this accident."

Police said three other miners managed to get out of the mine after the accident Thursday morning. □

New cartel target: social media users

DUDLEY ALTHAUS

© 2010 Houston Chronicle

MEXICO CITY - Placards left with the tortured bodies of two people hanging from a Nuevo Laredo overpass warn that the same fate awaits social media devotees who keep information flowing by text Twitter, blogs and other means as gangsters muzzle the news media in much of Mexico. "This is going to happen to all the internet busybodies," said one of the notes signed with a Z, presumably for the Zetas gang that controls Nuevo Laredo. "Listen up, I'm on to you."

Many Mexican newspapers and broadcasters have self-censored under constant gangster siege. Reporters have been killed, newsrooms attacked. Government officials often prove less than forthcoming with timely and accurate information. Twitter, Facebook, blogs and text messaging all have filled the void, becoming primary news sources in scores of Mexican communities, even for family members in the U.S., as gangs battle cartel rivals and security forces. The messages found in Nuevo Laredo on Tuesday, with the bodies of a man and a woman in their 20s, directly threatened two popular blogs that specialize in reporting gang-related violence.

A post on one of those blogs, Al Rojo Vivo, counseled readers Wednesday, "Don't be afraid to inform ... It's very difficult that they know who is informing. They are only trying to frighten society." The blog is carried by the website of the Monterrey newspaper El Norte.

While valuable to many residents, social networkers also spread rumors that have panicked communities. Prosecutors last month jailed and charged two people with "terrorism" for tweeting false reports of gangster attacks on schools in the Gulf Coast port of Veracruz.

Social media reports of other gangster attacks emptied the streets of Veracruz's capital, Xalapa, and other towns last weekend. Suggesting that the terrorism charges were overblown, Veracruz Gov. Javier Duarte nevertheless announced Tuesday that he would propose a new state law against "upsetting the public order."

But governments elsewhere have turned to social media in efforts to keep people informed. City officials in Reynosa, on the Rio Grande downriver from Nuevo Laredo, began tweeting several years ago to warn residents of gangster roadblocks and shoot-outs, blandly referring to them as "risky situations." □

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Aruba police to re-enact drowning

The Associated Press

ORANJESTAD - Aruban authorities will stage a re-enactment of the alleged drowning of a Maryland woman to test her jailed companion's account of the incident, a prosecution official said Thursday. Authorities hope the re-enactment will help them determine if it's possible for Robyn Gardner of Frederick, Maryland, to have drowned while snorkeling in the way her companion, Gary Giordano, has described the incident to investigators, Solicitor General Taco Stein said.

"We hope to get more insight into his version of events and see if we can shoot holes in it," Stein said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Aruban police officers will play the parts of 35-year-old Gardner and Giordano, a businessman from Gaithersburg, Maryland. The re-enactment will take place soon, probably within the next few days, near the southern tip of the Dutch Caribbean island but authorities are keeping the date a secret to discourage spectators, Stein said.

Giordano was arrested three days after telling police that Gardner was apparently swept out to sea while they were snorkeling during a five-day excursion to the island. He denies any wrongdoing and her body has not been found.

A judge ordered Giordano jailed for at least 60 more days on Aug. 31 to give authorities more time to investigate her presumed death and pursue possible criminal charges against him. □

Fun Seekers on vacation on Aruba!



ORANJESTAD - A group of 45 people from Rhode Island came to Aruba to celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries on the island together with Buddy and Edyie Rapone who are the group leaders. They are celebrating 14 years visiting Aruba and also their 35th wedding anniversary. Fun Seekers came to enjoy the beauty, relaxation and fun in the sun of Aruba!

Loyal visitors from Venezuela honored



Recently was honored as Ambassador of Good Will for the island of Aruba Mr. Eduardo and Mrs. Judith Quintero from Caracas Venezuela. This nice couple has been coming to Aruba for 30 consecutive years and are loyal members of the Aruba Beach Club. The Quintero couple loves Aruba very much, and has also brought a lot of family and friends to Aruba through the years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing



The Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Izaira Pinela, Activities Coordinator from the Aruba Beach Club. □

UK Agents enjoy assets of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Recently Aruba had the visit of a group of 14 travel agents from the United Kingdom, the agents came to Aruba for site inspections at different Hotels and to visit our multiple tourist attractions on land and sea. The agents consisted mostly of Thomson/First Choice from different counties of England, Wroxham Travel and Kenwood Travel, also came with the group a journalist for Travel Weekly the leading trade publication for Thomson Mrs. Jeanine Williamson.

Mrs. Williamson was very much amazed with everything she saw on the island and was very impressed by our museums, specially the antiquity museum located at Timbalstreet.

The travel agents were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority who had a very ample program combining site inspections at the hotels and site seeing of our landmarks and attractions, to give our visitors the best experience of Aruba. □



Associates Of The Aruba Marriott

Dr. Carlos Viana gives a presentation about healthy food choices



PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott invited Dr. Carlos Viana to share with the associates the importance of healthy food and the differences between popular diets. Certified Clinical Nutritionist Dr. Viana explains why he recommends the "Blood Type Diet"; what Gluten are and how they affect our health, the truth about milk products and health and elaborates on the many different types of sugars. The presenta-

tion was done to expand on healthy eating choices among the associates and to create a better understanding of the importance of healthy meals. Dr. Viana's visit is only one of the many health related initiatives planned to raise awareness amongst the associates, in hopes this will also be passed on to the hotel and restaurant guests. Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spa-

cious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ ArubaMarriott.

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In the pictures: La Vista restaurant family brunch

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pany is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, USA and had approximately 137,000 employees at 2009 year-end. It is recognized by FORTUNE® as one of the best companies to work for, and by Newsweek as one of the greenest big companies in America. In fiscal year 2009, Marriott International reported sales from continuing operations of nearly \$11 billion. For more information or reservations, please visit our web site at www.marriott.com □

"Muchacha del Swing" turns 30

Aruban queen of salsa dancing birthday



On Saturday, September 17th is the day that the queen of salsa dancing in Aruba, Janice Boekhoudt-Kock, turns 30.

The dancing is something Janice grew up with. On her fourth, she was already dancing, thanks to her father and mother. "They had a dance group 'Danza Aruba' and every time I went with them", says Janice. "At a certain time I became part of the dance group as well". Her parents, Ceslin Yarzagaray and Franklin Kock, have always encouraged her in dancing.

In 1999, Janice met her current partner, Oslin. With him, she danced in the 2002 World Salsa Championships in Orlando, Florida, and went home with the first prize. One of the judges was salsa legend Eddie Torres. "That was quite an

achievement, out of nothing, no experience in international conferences etc., and then winning the competition!" explains Janice. In 2006 Janice and Oslin decided, after passing their "bull" at the University of Puerto Rico at the salsa congress, to fully focus on their dance school "Pachanga". Janice: "That was a good decision. We made out of our hobby (since 2000) our work, teaching various dance types. Since 2006, we also train and certify teachers. This is an official document".

Not only salsa, also other dances, who are normal in Aruba, are danced excellently by her. From Bachata to waltz, from zouk to zumba. In 2009 Janice was asked to come on stage by merengue queen Olga Tañon when she had a con-

cert on Aruba, and danced next to Olga.

Immediately Olga called her "El Muchacho del Swing". "A very special experience," Janice called this meeting with Tañon. Janice is often asked by organizers of salsa congresses to give workshops. "We have done workshops in countries like Curaçao, the Netherlands, Venezuela and Suriname."

"Those workshops are fun things to do. You teach people, give them tools to dance but you learn from the students as well". That knowledge is used again in the dance lessons which are given in the dance school.

Janice's birthday is to be celebrated this Saturday, September 17, at Mojitos (former Mambo Jambo) with a free workshop "Rue-



da" from 9-10 in the evening and after that everyone is be treated with a live band, Grupo Melao, and various dance shows. Ev-

everyone is hereby invited to celebrate this joyous occasion. You do not even have to dance; watching is also a joy to behold! □



Aruba Beach Club guest honored by Aruba

EAGLE BEACH - Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Gloria Darragh were recently honored as a Goodwill Ambassadors due their 21 years consecutive visit to Aruba.

Ms. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony in presence of Izaira Pirela representative of Aruba Beach Club. The main reason they return Aruba's spectacular beaches and friendly people. □



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Flying high and Screaming loud:

Tiffany and Anthony Mc Neill celebrate 10 years of love



PALM BEACH – This dynamic duo Tiffany and Anthony Mc Neill decided to take a second honeymoon and renew the marriage vows to one another on the island of Aruba. Long time guests of the island staying at the Aruba Beach Club, the couple toured the islands best spots to enjoy their special day 11/11/11. They visited all the beaches and the beautiful

lighthouse on a photo tour of the island. At the end of the celebration, Tiffany jumped in the ocean in her lovely bridal gown. At night they enjoyed the fabulous ambiances of sister restaurants the Flying Fishbone and the Screaming Eagle to celebrate their decade of love together. Congratulations to such a wonderful couple. □



La Quinta guest honored by Aruba

EAGLE BEACH - Mrs. Marjorie Bollar were recently honored as a Goodwill Ambassador visitors due their 20 years consecutive visit to Aruba. Ms. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony in presence of Mckeisha Ross representative of La Quinta Beach Resort. The main reasons they return Aruba's people are friendly as well Hotel service is excellence. □



Rose leads BMW Championship by 2 shots

Justin Rose, right, signs autographs following the first day of play at the BMW Championship golf tournament on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in Lemont, Ill.

Associated Press
Page 18



Driver Jeff Gordon, right, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup AdvoCare 500 auto race, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, in Hampton, Ga.

Associated Press

Gordon alleges RCR orders altered Richmond finish

By JENNA FRYER

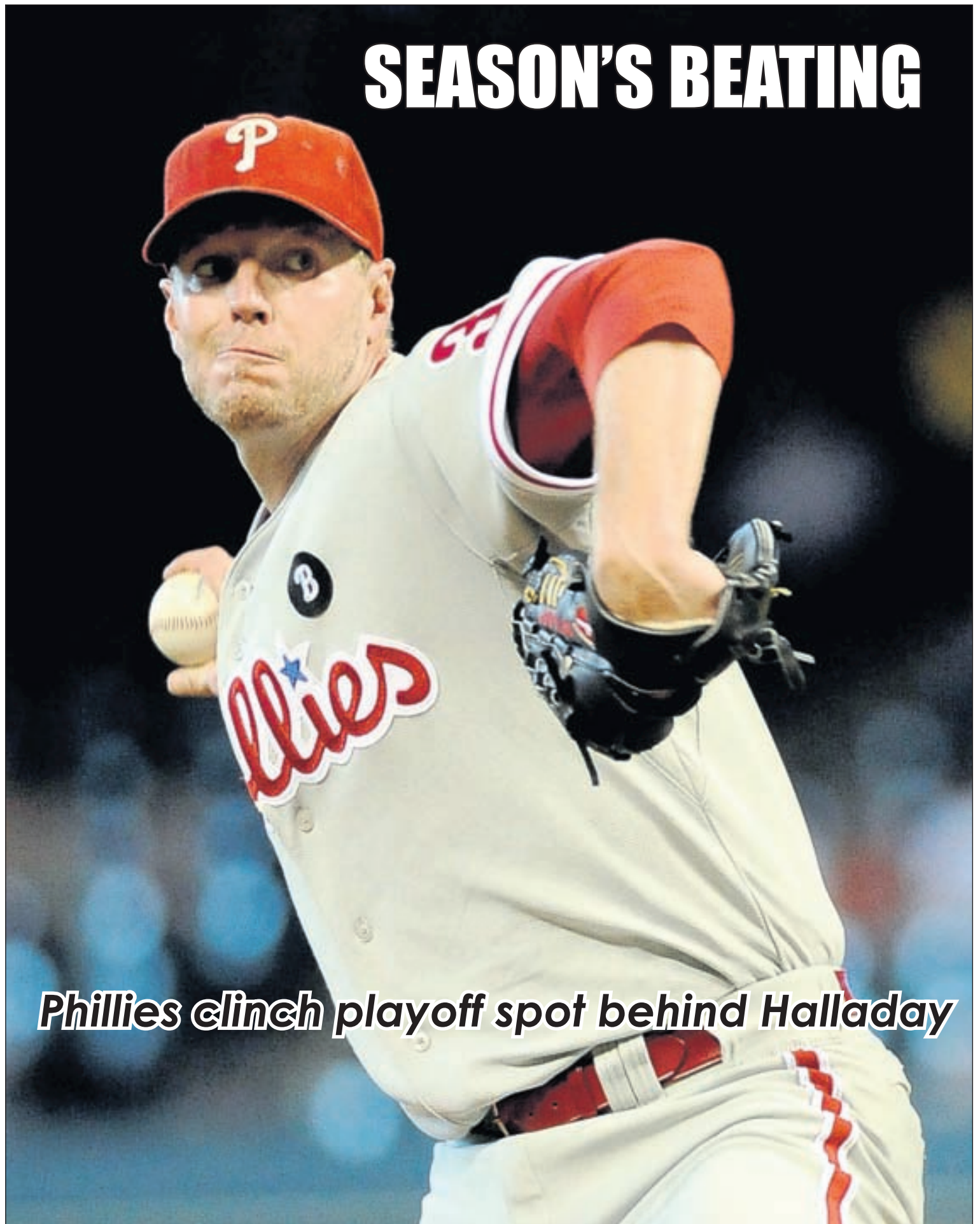
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Allegations of team orders swirled Thursday around the opening round of NASCAR's championship race, with Jeff Gordon alleging Richard Childress Racing intentionally caused a caution at Richmond that helped Kevin Harvick win the race. Gordon was leading Harvick in Saturday night's race when RCR driver Paul Menard spun with 16 laps to go. The drivers pitted, Harvick was first off pit road and pulled away on the restart four laps later.

Harvick went on to win his fourth race of the season, which tied him with Kyle Busch for the top seed in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Continued on Page 17

SEASON'S BEATING



Phillies clinch playoff spot behind Halladay

Rose rises to the occasion in chilly Chicago

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Feeling as though he had nothing to lose, Justin Rose put himself in position for a big gain with his best round of the year Thursday in the BMW championship.

Rose made birdie on half of his holes at Cog Hill, a tough course that played even longer in chilly conditions, giving him an 8-under 63 and a two-shot lead over Webb Simpson and Mark Wilson.

"Didn't expect that going out there today," Rose said. "I looked to the weather, looked at the temperature, and I thought today was going to be a day to hang in there. Little did I know I was about to play so well — certainly my best round of the year by a long, long way. And could have been top five, top 10 rounds I've ever played for sure."

There were other reasons he didn't see it coming. Since a solid spring through the Masters, the 31-year-old player from England lost his way and went 10 straight tournaments without a top-10 finish. He is No. 34 in the FedEx Cup, and because only the top 30 advance



Mark Wilson watches his tee shot on the ninth hole during the first round at the BMW Championship golf tournament on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in Lemont, Ill.

Associated Press

to the Tour Championship and a shot at the \$10 million bonus, Rose figured he might as well give it his best shot.

It was better than he imagined.

He didn't miss a single fairway and only twice had to scramble for par.

One round made his prospects for the FedEx Cup

brighten considerably, although plenty of other players took advantage of relatively soft greens that made up for the swirling breeze and temperatures that eventually climbed into the 60s.

Simpson remained hot despite the weather.

He won for the first time on the PGA Tour a month

ago at Greensboro, then won again two weeks later in the Deutsche Bank Championship to move to the top of the FedEx Cup and assure himself one of the coveted top five positions at East Lake. Another week, another course, and there he is again.

"Luckily, I was able to keep the momentum in the good stretch I had in Boston going into today,"

Simpson said. "We got off to a really good start and made a few really good saves there in the middle of the round and finished with a couple birdies coming in. It was a good day for the tough course and tough conditions we were facing."

Simpson made it sound simple, which is how golf can feel when a player is winning.

It wasn't that way for everyone.

Dustin Johnson, the defending champion at Cog Hill, sputtered at the start and then stumbled at the turn, making five bogeys for a 40 on his back nine for a 76. Jason Day had a 77, while Bubba Watson was wild off the tee and didn't make a single birdie in his

round of 78.

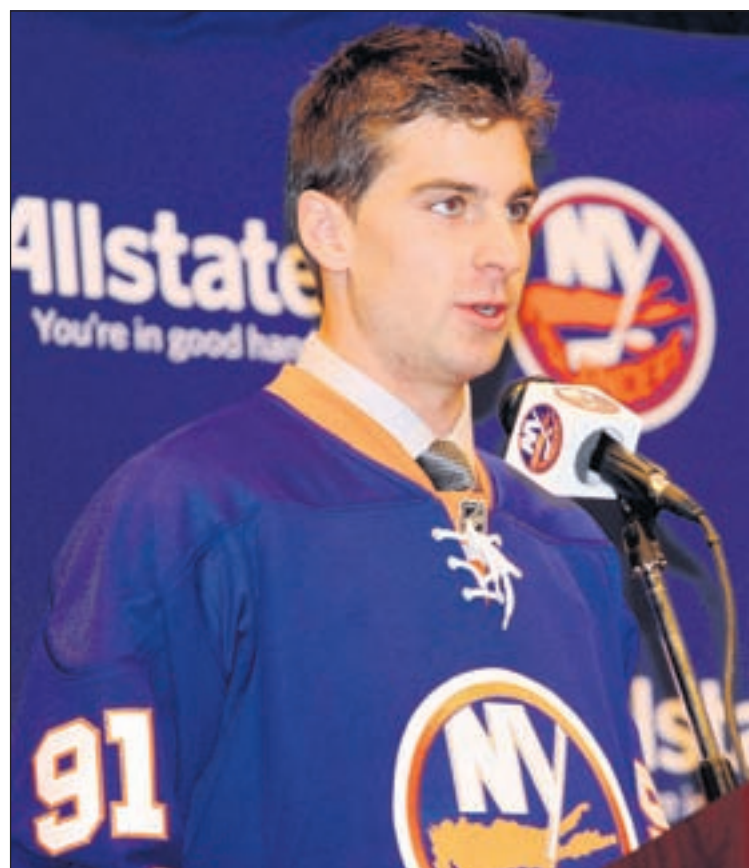
Phil Mickelson nearly joined them. He took double bogey on the par-3 second hole when his flop shot from the other side of the green only went one-third of the way toward the hole and stayed in the collar of the rough. Another towering flop shot wound up 12 feet by the hole. Lefty was 4 over through five holes, but ran off four birdies and salvaged a 72.

The measure of Rose's good round was that his 63 was nearly nine shots better than the average score in the opening round, and only 16 other players managed to break 70.

K.J. Choi opened with a 67, while the group at 68 featured Jim Furyk and Camilo Villegas, both of whom need a big week to advance to the Tour Championship.

Villegas narrowly got into the FedEx Cup playoffs, starting at No. 109, and now has the Tour Championship in his sights.

"Who cares where you are right now," Villegas said. "It's all about just playing good golf from here the next three days and hopefully advancing." □



New York Islanders' John Tavares, the No. 1 overall pick in the NHL draft, addresses the crowd as he is introduced during a news conference, in this July 8, 2009 file photo taken at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y.

Associated Press

Tavares, Isles agree on 6-year extension

By IRA PODELL - AP Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Forget all that talk and speculation that John Tavares would flee Long Island as soon as he got a chance at free agency. Not only is he staying put, but the soon-to-be 21-year-old center won't even test the market.

Tavares and the New York Islanders agreed to terms on a six-year, \$33 million contract that will keep the 2009 No. 1 overall pick under contract through the 2017-18 season. The new deal won't kick in until Tavares' three-year, entry-level contract expires after the upcoming season.

Sorry Maple Leafs fans. Tavares isn't coming home to Ontario anytime soon. Talks began this summer and the deal was hammered out on Wednesday, two days before the start of training camp. "This was more about me being happy about being an Islander and wanting to be here for a long time," Tavares said Thursday, while decked out in a blue and orange Islanders shirt that matched one worn by general manager Garth Snow. "We started talking, and once we were that close we felt like there was no reason to let it hang over our heads. "We wanted to get it done before training camp."

The Islanders operate on a low budget, and have to concern themselves more with reaching the floor of the salary cap rather than the upper levels. New York has done a good job in signing young core players the club hopes will get them back to the playoffs and beyond.

Tavares and fellow forwards Matt Moulson, Michael Grabner and Kyle Okposo are all signed for at least three more seasons. The Islanders have finished last in the Atlantic Division four straight years, have missed the playoffs in five of six seasons, and haven't won a postseason series since 1993. □

NBA players present unified front in labor impasse

By GREG BEACHAM

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — NBA players will remain unified and calm in what could be a lengthy pursuit of a labor agreement, union president Derek Fisher vowed Thursday.

About 40 players got an update on collective bargaining talks from Fisher and executive director Billy Hunter in what Fisher described as "a very colorful and engaging meeting" at a casino. NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith also spoke to the players, who were mostly in town to play in an Impact Basketball academy league.

"There is not the fracture and the separation amongst our group that in some ways has been reported," said Fisher, the Los Angeles Lakers point guard. "We just want to continue to reiterate that point."

The players echoed their



Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher, center, president of the NBA players union, is joined by NBA players, union executive director Billy Hunter, right, and other NBA players during a news conference Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in Las Vegas.

leaders' stance, promising they won't allow the union to splinter when the players start missing paychecks in a few weeks. NBPA members have been educated for several years about the steps necessary to survive a long lockout, and Fisher said the union will contin-

ue to protect the rights of players who sign overseas this fall.

"I've never seen this union as strong as we are collectively right now," said Boston Celtics center Jermaine O'Neal, among the few remaining players who participated in the 1998-99

labor dispute. "A lot of our young guys are wide-eyed when they see the numbers at first, but now they're educated. We don't need to make a temporary, emotional decision. We need to make a long-term decision for a bigger purpose."

Owners also met Thursday

in Dallas.

Players discussed union decertification during their meeting, but Hunter emphasized the union believes such a drastic step isn't an imminent strategy despite behind-the-scenes calls for the move from several agents. NFL players dissolved their union to file an antitrust lawsuit against the league earlier this year.

The players met two days after a bargaining session between the union's executive committee and the owners' labor relations committee brought no progress after the league refused players' desire to keep the current salary cap system.

"We've kind of dispelled the notion that the players were not together and they were not in support of the union," Hunter said. "If the owners were looking for a break in the ranks ... I think that notion has been dispelled." □

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AL Roundup

Red Sox lose again, beaten by Blue Jays

BOSTON (AP) — The reeling Boston Red Sox lost for the sixth time in seven games, wasting an eighth-inning lead and going down 5-4 to the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday to further tighten the American League wild-card race.

The Red Sox remained four games ahead of nearest rival Tampa Bay, which also lost, but Los Angeles moved within 4-1/2 games. After getting swept in a three-game series at Tampa Bay last weekend, Boston hosts the Rays in a four-game series starting Thursday.

Boston led 4-2 in the eighth before Adam Loewen hit a two-run single against Daniel Bard (2-8).

Toronto starter Ricky Romero (15-10) allowed six hits in eight innings and improved to 8-1 in his past 10 starts.

Tigers 6, White Sox 5, 10 innings

In Chicago, Carlos Guillen singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to give Detroit victory over Chicago and its 12th straight win; its longest winning streak in 77 years.

Guillen also hit a solo homer for Detroit, which hadn't won 12 in a row since 1934, when the Tigers won the American League.

Closing in on an AL Central title, the surging Tigers rallied for three runs in the ninth.

Jose Valverde pitched the 10th to remain perfect in 44 save opportunities this year.

White Sox reliever Sergio Santos (4-5) blew his sixth save of the season.

Rangers 9, Indians 1

In Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton's third career grand slam highlighted an eight-run fourth inning that powered Texas past Cleveland.

Hamilton and Mike Napoli both homered off Indians rookie David Huff (2-5) in the decisive fourth, Texas' biggest inning since 2009. Ian Kinsler also homered for the AL West-leading Rangers, who have won three straight and maintained a three-game lead over second-place Los Angeles. Rangers starter Derek Holland (14-5) allowed one run with six strikeouts over seven innings. He has won eight of his past nine decisions.

Mariners 2, Yankees 1, 12 innings

In Seattle, Luis Rodriguez led off the bottom of the 12th inning with a solo homer that gave Seattle victory over New York.

Rodriguez, who doubled in his previous two at-bats, hit a pitch from Cory Wade (5-1) into the right field seats. The delayed Mariano Rivera's quest for a record 601 career saves.

Seattle reliever Steve Delabar (1-0), who was a substitute teacher earlier during the season before being signed by the Mariners, earned his first major league victory.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Jered Weaver pitched seven innings for his career-best 17th win of the season, as Los Angeles downed Oakland to maintain its playoff charge.

Weaver (17-7) pitched out of a bases-loaded situation in the first and escaped a



Toronto Blue Jays' Adam Loewen drops his bat as he watches his two-RBI single in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday Sept. 14, 2011.

Associated Press

two-on, one-out jam in the second. The A's managed only two baserunners over the final six innings.

Mark Trumbo hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth, while Bobby Abreu added two hits and scored twice for the Angels.

Oakland starter Rich Harden (4-3) didn't make it out of the sixth, allowing three runs.

Orioles 6, Rays 2

In Baltimore, Tampa Bay missed an opportunity to gain ground in the wild-card race, getting only three hits over seven innings against Baltimore pitcher Jeremy Guthrie.

After watching Boston lose to Toronto in an afternoon game, the Rays took the field with a chance to close within three games of the

Red Sox in the AL wild-card hunt.

Instead, Tampa Bay lost its second straight to the last-place Orioles.

Royals 7, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Mike Moustakas had three hits and drove in two runs in Kansas City's win over Minnesota.

The Royals have won four straight, matching the longest winning streak of the season, while the Twins have lost 19 of 23 and are in last place in the AL Central after winning the division the past two years.

Kansas City starter Luke Hochevar (11-11) gave up two runs in six innings.

Minnesota's Liam Hendricks (0-2), making his second big league start, was roughed up for five runs in five innings. □

Dallas held, Pumas cruise in CONCACAF

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dallas was held to a 1-1 home draw by Panama's Tauro on Wednesday, dropping its first points of the tournament but holding on to first place in Group C of the CONCACAF Champions League.

In Wednesday's other Group C match, Mexican club Pumas UNAM won 4-0 at home against Toronto to move above the Canadian team and into second place. After three games each, Dallas has seven points, Pumas four, Toronto three and Tauro two.

In Group D, Seattle Sounders extended their perfect record with a 2-1 win at Costa Rica's Herediano, while Guatemala's Comunicaciones won 1-0 at home over Mexico's Monterrey. Seattle leads the group with nine points from three games, Comunicaciones has six, Monterrey three and Herediano none. Daniel Cruz gave Dallas the lead, setting a club record for the fastest goal when he scored just 23 seconds into the match. Luis Moreno equalized for Tauro in the 41st minute with a penalty.

Argentine forward Martin Bravo was the hero for Pumas with three goals: in the 17th, 33rd and 41st minutes. Efrain Velarde also scored for the Mexican club, in the 21st after a pass from Bravo.

Carlos Ramirez scored just on halftime to provide the sole goal for Comunicaciones in its key win over Monterrey. □

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LA's Kershaw wins, ejected in win over DBacks

NL Roundup

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Clayton Kershaw got his 19th victory of the season and was then ejected along with his manager Don Mattingly as the Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 in the National League on Wednesday.

Kershaw (19-5) allowed just one hit over five-plus innings before he hit Gerardo Parra on the elbow and was thrown out of the game.

The incident was a carry-over from Tuesday's game in which Parra momentarily stood at the plate to admire his homer.

Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth to earn his fourth save in five chances, giving up one run. Arizona's Daniel Hudson (16-10) gave up two runs in seven innings as the Diamondbacks comfortable lead in the NL West was sliced to 7-1/2 games ahead of San Francisco with 12 to play.

Rockies 6, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, the hosts' lead in the NL Central race was trimmed as Carlos Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs to lift Colorado to victory.

Milwaukee's lead over St. Louis was reduced to 5-1/2 games. The Brewers have Thursday off before a six-game road trip against Cincinnati and Chicago.

Milwaukee had led the division by 10-1/2 games and looked guaranteed

for their first title in 29 years, but have struggled for wins since while St. Louis has won seven of eight.

Trailing 1-0, Colorado scored three in third capped by Gonzalez's homer, another in the fourth on a solo homer by Wilin Rosario and two more in the fifth, aided by a Brewers error.

Rockies starter Kevin Millwood (3-2) gave up two runs over six inning while starter Shaun Marcum (12-7) took the loss for Milwaukee.

Braves 4, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Alex Gonzalez hit a three-run homer during a four-run rally in the seventh inning that lifted Atlanta over Florida, maintaining their buffer in the

wild-card race.

Martin Prado bunted in the other run during the inning for Atlanta, which is 4-1/2 games ahead of St. Louis with 12 and 13 games left respectively.

Cristhian Martinez, Eric O'Flaherty (2-4), Jonny Venters and rookie Craig Kimbrel each pitched a perfect inning to set up the Braves' recovery after Florida had gone ahead with a Greg Dobbs homer in the second.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (10-11) held the lead until the seventh.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, St. Louis kept pace with Atlanta as Yadier Molina hit a tiebreaking, two-run double to lift the visitors over Pittsburgh. □



Arizona Diamondbacks' Gerardo Parra, left, is hit by a pitch from Los Angeles Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw as catcher Rod Barajas and home plate umpire Bill Welke watch during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Gordon

Continued from page 17

It was a big swing for Gordon, who was denied his fourth victory and trails the leaders by three points for Sunday's opening Chase race at Chicagoland Speedway.

"If any of that is true of what's being speculated right now, all I can say is I've lost a lot of respect for Paul Menard if that's the case," Gordon said Thursday during a media tour of the 12 Chase drivers.

"I don't want to blame him for any of that if it's not true. He might have just lost it off of turn four and the caution came out. But when you listen to the radio, and I've had other

people translate it to me, it sounds a little fishy."

Gordon said he's not personally heard the radio transmission, and there doesn't appear to be concrete evidence to prove the allegation. Radio chatter between Menard and his team that was played this week on Speed Channel indicated there was a moment the group switched to an encrypted frequency before Menard spun.

A spokesman for RCR said the organization had no comment on Gordon's claim. But Harvick said he made internal inquiries and has been told a flat tire on Menard's car caused him to spin.

"Everything that I've heard

about the situation was the right rear tire was down to the cords," Harvick said. "I guess I wish I could have brought it with me. Obviously when a situation like that happens, that's going to be the first thing that people migrate to."

"That's really all I know about the whole thing. I asked what the deal was and that was the answer I received." The allegation is just the latest sideshow to what's expected to be the most competitive Chase to date. Earlier in the race, five-time defending champion Jimmie Johnson intentionally wrecked Kurt Busch and the two traded barbs afterward. It led to a tense postrace news conference and scrutiny of Busch for

losing his cool.

Meanwhile, two-time champion Tony Stewart said Thursday there's only seven real title contenders. The five who Stewart doesn't think have a chance? Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Denny Hamlin, Matt Kenseth, and, most surprisingly, himself.

There's always the potential for something explosive to happen between co-points leaders Kyle Busch and Harvick, who openly dislike each other and each spent a stint on probation this season for an altercation at Darlington. And now Harvick, who loves to be in the center of controversy, has been caught up in the Gordon versus RCR allegations. □

Uh-oh: Scientists say film 'Contagion' is for real

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Yes, it could happen. But it's a stretch.

"Contagion," a Hollywood thriller that opened last weekend, rocketed to No. 1 at the box office through its gripping tale of a fictional global epidemic driven by a new kind of virus. Audiences have gasped in horror at what happens to Gwyneth Paltrow.

Before it was out, the movie made real-life disease investigators anxious, too, though for a different reason: They had worried the filmmakers would take so many artistic liberties with the science that the result would be an incredible movie that was ... not credible.

Well, cue the applause.

"It's very plausible," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which would investigate such an outbreak.

A new virus jumping from animals to humans? Nothing fictional about that. Global spread of a disease in a few days? In this age of jet travel, absolutely. A societal meltdown if things get bad? Plan on it.

Yikes. The only bit of relief here is that several experts think the odds are pretty long that a new virus could be both so deadly and contagious at the same time.

The team behind the film used several expert con-

sultants and went to other lengths to get scientific details correct.

That included working with esteemed Columbia University epidemiologist Dr. W. Ian Lipkin to create the fictional MEV-1 virus. It's modeled on the Nipah virus — a dangerous bug first seen in Malaysia a dozen years ago that spread from pigs to farmers.

hair on a field assignment.

Overall health officials say they were very pleased with what resulted. During an advance screening for CDC employees in Atlanta last week, some in the audience laughed appreciatively to see visual details and even lingo that they never imagined would be used in a mass-market motion picture.

respected director and an all-star cast, but the scientific miscues were laughable. Some experts still shake their heads at how much time was spent finding an infected monkey and how little time it took — seemingly just a few minutes — to make, test and distribute a life-saving vaccine.

"Contagion" fares far better in the experts' eyes. That

Something this deadly and fast-moving has never materialized, possibly because a bug that kills too efficiently limits its ability to spread because its victims don't have much time to make contact with many other people.

—When a vaccine is released to the public, distribution of initially limited supplies was decided through a lottery based on date of birth. In reality, health officials would prioritize vaccine for people who were deemed most susceptible to the virus. Also at the head of the line would be health-care workers and others essential to keeping emergency response systems running. The movie didn't indicate measures like that.

—As a vaccine to protect against the new disease is being developed, the movie seems to suggest that initial human testing of it hinges largely on a CDC scientist injecting herself and then visiting her diseased father's bedside to see if she gets sick. Officials say a more realistic portrayal would show weeks or months of safety and effectiveness testing in many thousands of volunteers.

Also, "we don't inject ourselves with (experimental) vaccines," said Dr. Ermias Belay, a CDC official who oversees lab scientists handling dangerous pathogens.

Lipkin was involved with the movie for years and even reviewed film clips during production. When an Associated Press reporter reviewed the list of unrealistic points with him, he responded: "It's a movie."

But he also chafed at the idea that this kind of global epidemic won't occur just because we haven't seen one before. "Nobody expected Nipah. Nobody expected HIV. Nobody expected SARS," he said.

One other significant plot point seems pretty implausible, too — how well the epidemic investigation goes.

When new infections start popping up in multiple cities at about the same time, finding the origin can be a nearly impossible task. □



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Matt Damon in a scene from the film "Contagion." Associated Press

Efforts also involved actress Kate Winslet sitting down with a female CDC disease investigator so she could correctly copy such things as the investigators' clothes, mannerisms and even how the scientist might wear her

"It was very accurate. It kind of made us all chuckle because there were things that we thought only people at CDC might get," said Laura Gieraltowski, an expert in foodborne illnesses. Indeed, CDC officials have embraced the film. The agency allowed the movie's makers to film at their main campus — the first time the agency has allowed a major motion picture studio such access. And CDC officials have opened up their schedules for media interviews, panel appearances and live Internet chats to talk about the movie and potential real-life contagions.

It's a far better reception than their reaction to "Outbreak," a popular 1995 movie starring Dustin Hoffman, the last time Hollywood took a major stab at telling a story about a nation-threatening, non-zombie epidemic. Like "Contagion," that film had a

said, the scenario painted in the new movie is also considered highly unlikely. A thriller telling a complex story in roughly two hours, it portrays some things that are doubtful at best. Among them:

—The government dispatches only one disease investigator to Minnesota to check out the outbreak. In reality, the government would throw a lot more people at an emerging problem like this. When the first two swine flu cases were reported in San Diego in 2009, neither of them fatalities, the CDC sent five such scientists along with other staff.

—The fictional virus kills more than 1 in 5 of the people it infects. That's extremely high for an epidemic that goes global. The infamous Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19 — used as the modern-day measuring stick for a terrible international contagion — killed more like 1 in 100.

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For Android users, a cure for iTunes withdrawal

BOB-TEDESCHI

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A few weeks ago, I pulled off a major feat for a forty-something relic in the company of a 15-year-old. I taught him something cool about his phone.

After my friend's son, Davis, described the advantages of his Droid X, he came to its "one big downside."

"I can't get my iTunes music on it," he said.

"I've got an app for you," I said. "DoubleTwist."

He looked it up on his phone. "Wow," he said. "That's it."

DoubleTwist, which is free, gives people a way to easily sync their iTunes music library with their Android phones. As such, it's one of the most important, yet often overlooked, pieces of software on the Android market.

DoubleTwist can be a bit confusing at times, and it has limited features when it comes to transferring photos between your phone and your computer. But for Android users who might otherwise feel forced to carry around an iPod for music, doubleTwist is a great option.

Getting started is a two-step process. Users must download the doubleTwist

desktop application (from doubletwist.com) as well as the Android app. Next, you synchronize the media on your phone and computer. Unfortunately, the initial syncing process isn't quite as seamless as it could be. When you start the desktop application, it greets you not with a guide to getting started, but with a pitch urging you to buy the doubleTwist AirSync app. (More on that great little app later.) As an alternative, the desktop application says, you can "sync via USB for free." But this raises questions. Should you first open iTunes or just connect the phone to the computer? Should you download the Android app to your phone and perhaps open it before connecting?

DoubleTwist offers little help, if any. I searched the desktop application for tips, but no "quick start guide" or "getting started" sections existed, and nothing on the doubleTwist website's user forums suggested which way to go.

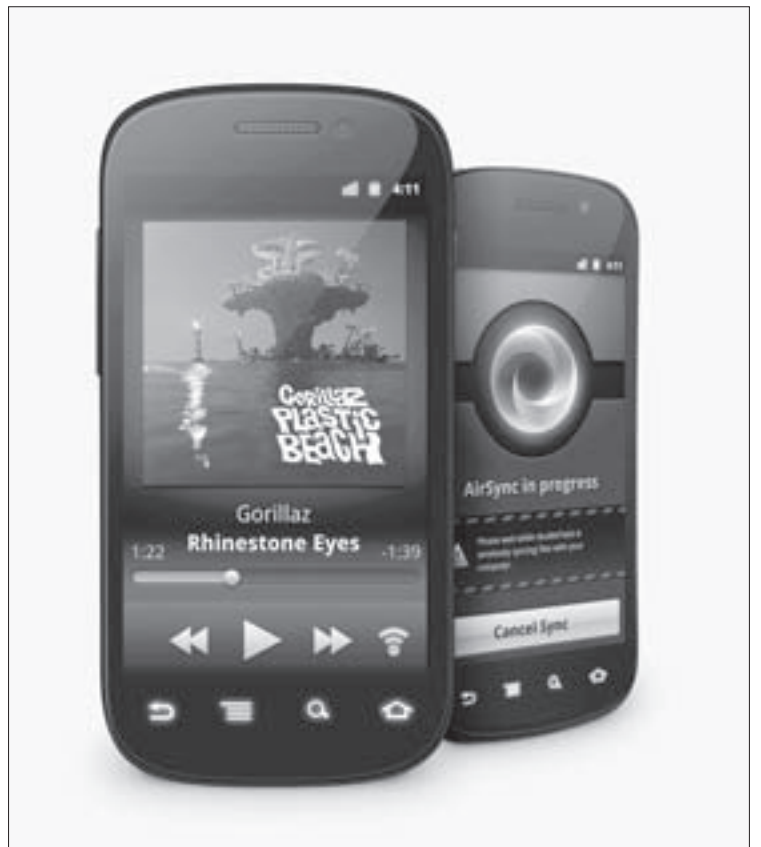
I opened the doubleTwist app on the Droid2, and it prompted me to send an e-mail to my account – perhaps with startup guidance – but no email arrived.

So I grabbed a cable with

a mini-USB plug on one end (for connecting to the phone's power source) and a conventional USB plug on the other. With the doubleTwist app open on the phone, I connected the Droid2 to my Mac.

Success. The connection set off the opening of a new window on my desktop screen, prompting me to import music, videos and photos from my phone to the computer, or sync my iTunes music or videos to the phone.

Instead of trying to export my entire music library to the Droid2 or selected playlists among the many I have, though, doubleTwist asked if I wanted to choose among three playlists: "Most Played," "Recently Added" and "Top Rated." □



The DoubleTwist app displayed on an Android smartphone. The free app gives people a way to easily sync their iTunes music library with their Android phones.

(The New York Times)

Bags that carry and empower devices

© 2011 New York Times

In these days of always-on devices, there's nothing worse than a dead gadget. New bags by PowerBag promise portable charging for multiple devices on the go.

The bags, which will start at \$140, come with built-in batteries to charge multiple USB devices. The charging system is light enough not to weigh you down and powerful enough to charge almost any devices, including iPhones, tablets, e-readers and Bluetooth devices – essentially anything powered with a USB cable.

The bags, made by Ful, come in five different styles, including messenger bags and backpacks, and each contains 3000 mAh or 6000 mAh batteries. You can connect up to four devices at a time and there are cables included for micro- and mini-USB devices as well as one Apple connector. There is also one USB port for any other USB-powered device. The system automatically senses which devices are plugged in and will send even amounts of power to each device, ensuring everything gets its fair share of juice. To charge the bag, you simply plug it into the wall. The concept of batteries in bags is not new, but this iteration looks to be thinner and lighter than previous versions. The bags come in a variety of colors to match all the devices that are parasitically feeding on the sweet electrical force. □

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Inflation squeezing consumers in weak economy

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

consumers are spending more to fill their tanks, feed their families and pay the rent. At the same time, the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits has reached the highest level in three months.

The latest government data show that inflationary pressures and a depressed job market are hurting an economy that barely grew in the first half of the year. Higher prices could also keep the Federal Reserve from taking major steps to stimulate the growth next week when policymakers meet.

When prices rise, consumers cut back on big purchases, such as appliances, furniture and vacations. Mixed reports on manufacturing Thursday and flat retail sales in August suggest that may already be happening.

A decline in demand forces businesses to put off hiring and even lay off workers. In August, the econ-



In this Feb. 16, 2011 file photo, Brian Sprague fills his his car's tank with gas in Philadelphia. Sharp price increases for gas and food have pushed up most measures of inflation this year. That has reduced consumers' purchasing power, cut into their ability to spend on other items and weakened the economy.

omy added zero net jobs. Unemployment benefit applications have increased in three of the past four weeks.

"Unless spirits improve soon, businesses will ramp up layoffs, consumers will pull back, and the econo-

my will fall back into recession," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Consumer prices rose 0.4 percent in August, according to the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index. Prices for food, energy, rent, and clothing all increased. Excluding volatile food and energy costs, core prices increased 0.2 percent.

Some inflation can be

healthy for the economy because it encourages people to spend and invest rather than sitting on their cash. More spending drives corporate growth, which makes businesses more likely to hire people.

For the 12 months that ended in August, core prices surged 2 percent. That's the biggest year-over-year increase in nearly three years, and it's at the high end of the Federal Re-

serve's informal inflation target.

Rising inflation is a key reason Macroeconomic Advisors lowered its growth estimate for the July-September quarter from 1.9 percent to 1.6 percent. The economic consulting firm said higher prices will reduce consumer spending. Economists don't expect prices to rise much further, mostly because employers aren't hiring much or handing out big raises. Still, the spike in prices over the past year has cut into consumers' pay and limited their purchasing power.

"In an environment where you're now looking at zero job growth, it will be difficult to have much success passing on any additional costs," said Tom Porcelli, chief U.S. economist at RBC Capital Markets.

Unemployment benefit applications rose to 428,000 last week, the Labor Department said in a separate report. And the four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose for the fourth straight week to 419,500, the highest level in eight weeks.

Applications need to fall below 375,000 to indicate that hiring is increasing enough to lower the unemployment rate. □

Associated Press

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Credit card defaults, late payments continue slide

EILEEN AJ CONNELLY

AP Personal Finance Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a bumpy summer for U.S. credit card issuers, but most of the top banks reported that their customers continued to make their payments on time.

Default rates were down at four of the five companies that reported their August results by midday Thursday. Only Capital One Financial Corp. had an uptick in the rate of its write-offs of uncollectible balances.

Capital One also posted a slight increase in its rate of payments late by 30 days or more, which is considered an indicator of future default.

Discover Financial Services, American Express, Chase

and Bank of America reported continued declines in both rates.

Citibank is expected to report August results to the Securities and Exchange Commission later Thursday. The results were similar in July, with a few banks reporting slight increases but most reporting improvements in defaults, or charge-offs, and delinquencies.

Overall, both defaults and delinquencies have dropped sharply since hitting their peaks. Late payments, in particular, are now at historically low points.

Charge-off rates for cards peaked in the second quarter of 2010 at 10.96 percent, according to Fed



Two bank smart cards are displayed in London, Friday, Sept. 9, 2011.

Associated Press

data, and were down to 5.6 percent in the latest second quarter. Monthly data from most card issuers has shown continued declines, which will be reflected in third-quarter figures. Industry wide delinquency rates

were down to 3.62 percent in the second quarter, after peaking in the second quarter of 2009 at 6.76 percent.

One reason consumers are able to keep up with their payments is that balances have dropped sharply since the height of the recession. Lower balances translates to lower minimum payments.

The Federal Reserve said total revolving credit balanc-

es, which are mostly credit cards, dropped at an annual rate of 5.25 percent in July, to \$792.5 billion. That's down 21 percent since the peak in 2008 of \$957.5 billion. The drop reflects both an effort on the part of card users to pay down debt and the amount that banks have written off as uncollectible, which Moody's Investor Services estimates at more than \$75 billion since 2009. □

Netflix lowers subscriber forecast by 3%, shares fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix Inc. lowered its expectations for U.S. subscribers for the third quarter by 4 percent on Thursday, just weeks after separating its DVD and streaming services, which increased the price for customers who want both.

The news sent the online movie rental company's shares down more than 14 percent in midday trading. The company, which split its streaming and DVD-by-mail services two months ago, now expects a total of 24 million subscribers in the third quarter, down from the 25 million it forecast in July.

It expects 21.8 million people to subscribe to its streaming service, either with or without also getting DVDs in the mail. That's down from an expected 22 million it forecast earlier. And Netflix expects 14.2 million people to subscribe to mail-order DVD rental service, with or without streaming. That's down from its July forecast of 15 million.

Netflix kept its forecast for international subscribers, which makes up a small fraction of its total customers, and overall third-quar-



In this April 22, 2011 file photo, the logo of Netflix is displayed at the headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif.

Associated Press

ter earnings, intact.

The plan split, which went into effect Sept. 1 for existing subscribers, means people who want both mailed DVDs and streamed Internet videos are paying more than they have. For example, a bundled plan that had cost \$10 per month now costs \$16 per month for existing customers. The prices of other popular bundled plans rose by 20 percent to 33 percent.

The Los Gatos, Calif., company said that despite the lowered subscriber guidance, it thinks the split was the right move.

Jefferies & Co. analyst Youssef H. Squali said while "Netflix's leadership in online streaming should re-

main uncontested for a long time," he thinks that "a combination of the recent price hike, a less favorable competitive environment, and aggressive international expansion raises the risk profile of the stock."

Shares of Netflix fell \$30.15, or 14.5 percent, to \$178.56 in midday trading. The stock has traded in a 52-week range of \$140.02 to \$304.79. □



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<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p> <p>James Marsden Kate Bosworth</p> <p>STRAW DOGS</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25 Fri 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25 / 11:50 Sat 2:10 / 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25</p>	<p>Sarah Jessica Parker Pierce Brosnan</p> <p>I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 5:15 / 7:15 / 9:15 Fri 5:15 / 7:15 / 9:15 / 11:20 Sat 1:20 / 3:15 / 5:15 / 7:15 / 9:15 / 11:20 Sun & Hol 1:20 / 3:15 / 5:15 / 7:15 / 9:15</p>
<p>STARTING FRIDAY 16</p> <p>Katie Holmes Guy Pearce</p> <p>DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 9:30 Fri - Sat 9:30 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 9:30</p>	<p>Sara Paxton Dustin Milligan</p> <p>SHARK NIGHT 3D</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 Fri 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40 Sat 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40 Sun & Hol 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35</p>
<p>Nicholas D'Agosto Emma Bell</p> <p>FINAL DESTINATION 5</p> <p>3D Version</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 7:10 / 9:10 Fri - Sat 7:10 / 9:10 / 11:10 Sun & Hol 7:10 / 9:10</p>	<p>Emma Stone Bryce Dallas Howard</p> <p>the Help</p> <p>Mon - Fri 4:00 / 6:35 Sat, Sun & Hol 3:30 / 6:35</p>
<p>Jessica Alba Joel McHale</p> <p>SPY</p> <p>3D Version</p> <p>Mon - Fri 4:30 Sat, Sun & Hol 1:25 / 3:20 / 5:15</p>	<p>Zoe Saldana Michael Vartan</p> <p>COLOMBIANA</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 Fri 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45 Sat 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45 Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20</p>

STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 22 - KILLER ELITE

Mutts

Mooch's
Dear Diary

9.16

T.G.I.F.

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Blondie

LOOK, MR. B.! MY DAD'S GETTING US INTO MODEL TRAINS

WHOA! IS THAT A GENUINE LIONEL ENGINE?! I'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE!!

I STILL HAVE MY OLD CHILDHOOD TRAIN SET, ELMO! CHECK IT OUT!!

WOW!!

MR. B., IS IT NORMAL TO HAVE AN ENGINE, A CABOOSE, AND SEVEN DINING CARS?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

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Mother Goose & Grimm

NO PETS

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? I DON'T HAVE ANY PETS.

OPEN

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9/16 MURLE PETERS

Baby Blues

SO NOW I HAVE THE BOARDROOM, THE COMPANY CAR AND VACATION.

AND I HAVE THE LAUNDRY ROOM, THE FAMILY CAR AND LACTATION.

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

:SIGH:

:SIGH:

TRADE YA.

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Zits

I HATE ALL MY CLASSES, I DESPISE THE SCHOOL, AND MY WHOLE WORLD IS NOTHING BUT A STEAMING BUCKET OF PIG SNOT!

SLAM!

THE COOKIE YOU PUT IN MY LUNCH WAS PRETTY DECENT, THOUGH.

GLAD I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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Conceptis Sudoku

	1							
			7	5		8		6
	8	3	2			7		
						2	3	
	3			1			9	
	9	7						
		8			9	5	7	
4		5		8	6			
							8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	6	2	5	7	8	9	4	1
7	4	1	6	3	9	8	5	2
5	9	8	4	1	2	7	3	6
8	1	7	2	4	3	5	6	9
6	5	9	7	8	1	4	2	3
2	3	4	9	5	6	1	8	7
4	2	6	1	9	5	3	7	8
9	7	3	8	2	4	6	1	5
1	8	5	3	6	7	2	9	4

ACROSS

- 1 Present topper
4 Get ___ of; surpass
9 One of the three tenses
13 "Beowulf" or "Paradise Lost"
15 Marsh plant
16 Hang ___; keep
17 City fellow on a ranch
18 Book leaves
19 Thing
20 Asinine
22 Uses a straw
23 Without
24 Subject for Freud
26 Local dialect
29 Puts in order
34 Get tangled
35 Schemes
36 Bit of cereal
37 Social insects
38 Nourishes
39 Enormous
40 Whopper
41 Equals
42 Pretty woman at a ball
43 Seller
45 Creased
46 "A man's home is ___ castle"
47 Calf meat
48 Peruvian Indian
51 Vastness
56 Turn over a new ___; reform
57 Goatee, e.g.
58 Aretha's music
60 ___ preserver; buoyant vest
61 T-shirt size
62 Robust
63 Toboggan
64 Go in
65 Billy ___ Williams
7 Generations
8 Baked Alaska & pumpkin pie
9 Venom
10 "Nay" voter
11 Staircase piece
12 "Uncle ___ Cabin"
14 Wartime letter reviewers
21 Set ___; leave shore
25 Xenon or argon
26 Biblical hymn
27 Ms. Oakley
28 Idaho export
29 Open-eyed
30 Axles
31 Actor Elliott ___
32 Two strokes under par
33 Spirited horse
35 Hammer part
38 Doable
39 Horrible
41 Greek letter
42 Crushing snakes
44 Rubbed so as to make sore

DOWN

- 1 Cot or crib
2 Musical work
3 Expansive
4 Fluttering trees
5 Makes well
6 On ___; uptight

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28					29	30			31	32	33
34					35						36		
37					38					39			
40				41						42			
43			44						45				
				46					47				
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57					58			59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 9/16/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

MAMA	BLABS	HATS
IDOL	LICIT	ECRU
COOL	ULTRA	AMID
ESTUARY	DIADEMS	
	RIB	FINNS
MISER	TEE	NEARS
ONUS	AID	OUTFIT
WAR	ILLEGAL	IDO
ENGINE	RAT	WREN
DEEMS	TAP	THERE
	PETAL	SEA
CURATOR	WEDLOCK	
ONES	OGDEN	IVAN
ADDS	TEALS	NERO
LODE	STYLE	GREW

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- 45 ___ bender; minor accident
47 Brink
48 Misfortunes
49 Sedaka or Diamond
50 Lunch spot
52 Cruel
53 Trading center; market
54 Brown, warty amphibian
55 ___ log; Christmastime hearth piece
59 Civil War Gen. Robert E. ___

Today In History

The Associated Press
Today is Friday, September 16, the 259th day of 2011. There are 106 days left in the year.
Highlights in history on this date:

1668 - John II Casimir, facing a rebellion after a string of disastrous wars, abdicates as king of Poland and becomes an abbot in France.

1673 - Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I declares war against France.

1744 - Prussia's King Frederick II takes Prague but, deserted by the French, is driven back into Saxony.

1810 - Mexicans begin their revolt against Spanish rule.

1913 - Japan sends flotilla to Yangtze River on China's failure to honor reparation agreement.

1955 - Argentine President Juan Peron is ousted by a military coup during his second term in office and begins an 18-year exile.

1957 - Coup in Thailand places Pote Sarasin, new secretary-general of Southeast Asian Treaty Organization, as premier.

1963 - Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak and Singapore form Federation of Malaysia.

1967 - U.N. Secretary-General U Thant calls on United States to halt bombing of North Vietnam.

1970 - Weeklong "Black September" civil war starts in Jordan, with King Hussein declaring martial law and calling up troops to fight Palestinians.

1974 - U.S. President Gerald Ford announces a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam War deserters and draft-evaders.

1975 - Papua New Guinea, previously under Australian administration, becomes an independent nation.

1978 - More than 11,000 people are feared dead after an earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale hit the southeast region of Iran.

1979 - Afghanistan's President Nur Mohammed Taraki is overthrown in coup headed by hard-line Communist Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin.



Today is Amy Poehler's birthday

1982 - Lebanese Christian militiamen massacre 800 Palestinian refugees at Shatilla and Sabra refugee camps in west Beirut, controlled by the Israeli army.

1987 - Two dozen countries sign the Montreal protocol, designed to reduce emission of gases that deplete the ozone layer by the year 2000.

1990 - Iraq opens Kuwait's borders and thousands of Kuwaitis attempt to flee their country.

1992 - Russian and Cuban officials announce they reached an agreement on the withdrawal from Cuba of a 1,500-troop brigade stationed there by the former Soviet Union.

1994 - A federal court jury in Anchorage, Alaska, orders Exxon Corp. to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages to Alaskan fishermen and natives for the March 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

1995 - In Mexico, three military planes flying in formation crash during Mexican Independence Day festivities, killing six crew members.

1997 - Typhoon Oliwa hits southwestern Japan, killing six and forcing 80,000 people from their homes.

1998 - Serb security forces shell an ethnic Albanian rebel stronghold in northern Kosovo, spreading fighting to a peaceful area of the province and sending thousands of people fleeing.

1999 - Indonesia's military commander in East Timor pledges to pull his troops out of the devastated province starting next week, ending a long, bitter occupation and making way for a multinational peace-keeping force.

2001 - Typhoon Nari lashes northern Taiwan with fierce winds and torrential rain, shutting down schools, closing railway lines and triggering landslides and flash flooding that kills nine people.

2002 - Peace talks at a naval base in Sattahip, Thailand open between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam rebel army in an attempt to end Sri Lanka's 19-year-old civil war.

2004 - The Mexican government promises to give free homes to 47 mothers of women killed in a string of sexually motivated slayings in Ciudad Juarez, angering some who say that the gifts gloss over the lack of results

in the criminal investigations.

2005 - A senior Sunni cleric calls for all the country's religious and ethnic groups to take a stand against violence as Iraq endures a third consecutive day of sectarian killings.

2006 - The Vatican announces that Pope Benedict XVI "sincerely regrets" offending Muslims with his reference to an obscure medieval text that characterizes some of the teachings of Islam's founder as "evil and inhuman."

2007 - The budget One-Two-Go Airlines domestic flight OG269, carrying 123 passengers and seven crew members, crashes as it tries to land in pouring rain on Thailand's resort island of Phuket. At least 90 people are killed, including 54 foreign tourists.

Today's Birthdays:

France's King Louis XIV (1638-1715); John Gay, English poet (1685-1732); J.C. Penney, U.S. entrepreneur (1875-1971); Lauren Bacall, U.S. actress (1924-); B.B. King, U.S. blues musician (1925-); Peter Falk, U.S. actor (1927-2011); Molly Shannon, U.S. actress/comedian (1964-); Amy Poehler, U.S. actress/comedian (1971-); Marc Anthony, Latin/pop singer (1969-).

Thought For Today:

He who loves himself best need fear no rival — Latin proverb. □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
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Fire Dept. II	582-1108
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Oranjestad

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Police	582-4000

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Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
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[illegible]



In this image released by Sony Screen Gems, James Marsden, left, and Kate Bosworth is shown in a scene from "Straw Dogs." (AP Photo/Sony Screen Gems, Steve Dietl)

Review:

'Straw Dogs' is tense but troubling

CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP Movie Critic

The setting has been moved from the British countryside to the swamps of Mississippi, and the lead actors got better looking, but Rod Lurie's "Straw Dogs" is essentially identical to the 1971 Sam Peckinpah thriller he's remaking. Names, graphic details, bits of dialogue, even a parallel editing structure that unfolds during a pivotal moment — they're all here. And the themes and messages that were problematic in the original exist here, as well. It's a movie that purports itself to be an indictment of violence, a critical exploration of the depraved depths to which man can sink when pushed. Yet Lurie ("The Contender," "Nothing But the Truth"), as writer and director, depicts this brutality in vivid detail, to the point of almost fetishizing it. Similarly, James Marsden's character — a mild-mannered, Harvard-educated screenwriter — only truly gains the respect of his disdainful attackers, and only finds his own sense of self-worth, once he unleashes the primal fury he never knew he had inside of him in order to protect his wife and their home. At least Peckinpah's film had societal context on its side. Dustin Hoffman starred as a pacifist mathematician who was happy to move with his wife (Susan George) back to her family's farm in order to escape the pervasive feeling of unease in the United States during the Vietnam War. The surly locals viewed him as a coward, and forced him to prove himself otherwise. In Lurie's "Straw Dogs" — which, like the original, is based on the novel "The Siege of Trencher's Farm" — mere classism seems to be the source of conflict, with a touch of xenophobia. □

Rapper T.I. back at Atlanta halfway house

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Grammy-winning artist T.I. was back at a halfway house in Atlanta on Thursday after weeks of fighting with federal prison officials who were upset he traveled with a TV producer and a manager when he was released from an Arkansas prison, his attorney said. T.I. was initially released from the Arkansas prison and sent to the halfway house on Aug. 31, a month before his sentence for probation violation was up. But a day later he was back in federal custody after corrections authorities accused him of violating prison rules by discussing business deals with the two during his 375-mile journey to Atlanta.

Attorney Steve Sadow argued that the rapper didn't break any rules because a VH1 reality show and book deal that was announced within hours of his release had actually been finalized months earlier. Sadow said Thursday that his client didn't intend to violate any guidelines and that he was pleased with the outcome. The Bureau of Prisons did not comment on the move.

T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris, initially served about seven months in prison in 2009 after he was arrested for trying to buy unregistered guns and silencers from undercover



T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris, arrives at a halfway house in Atlanta, after being released from federal prison in Arkansas where he served 10 months for violating his probation. A lawyer for rapper T.I. says the Grammy-winning artist has been moved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons from the halfway house to another location.

(AP Photo/John Amis, File)

federal agents. He was on probation after he was released and ordered not to commit another crime or to illegally possess any controlled substances. He then was arrested in Los Angeles in September 2010 after authorities said he was found

with four ecstasy pills. He was sentenced to 11 months in prison for that violation and had been set for release at the end of September, but he was allowed to transfer to an Atlanta halfway house about a month early. □



Beth Behrs and Kat Dennings, the stars of "2 Broke Girls"

2 budding stars go for broke on '2 Broke Girls'

Behrs and Kat Dennings can count a grand total of one week spent working together. That was when they filmed the pilot for "2 Broke Girls" — and that was in April. But joining a reporter for breakfast at Mel's Drive-in, a Valley landmark, they share laughs and a chemistry that seems years in the making — just as they do on their sassy new comedy as struggling waitresses at a Brooklyn greasy spoon. ("2 Broke Girls" premieres Monday at 9:30 p.m. EDT, before settling into its regu-

lar slot on Sept. 26 at 8:30 p.m., hammocked between the CBS hits "How I Met Your Mother" and "Two and a Half Men.") While waiting for production to resume in early August, they solidified their friendship. Kat: "We've been checking in with each other every few days." Beth: "I'll randomly text Kat about something I'm watching on TV in the middle of the night: 'You need to see this!'" Kat: "Like, 'Extreme Makeover' did WHAT?!"

No actorly exchanges about process or technique? "Oh, no!" Beth laughs. "We don't talk about work at all." "Should we?" poses Kat, her eyebrow raised. Orders are taken. Beth chooses an omelet and hash browns. Kat calls for wheat toast and, more urgently, a cup of joe. "Nectar!" she rejoices when the coffee arrives. "And it's not bad." "I like diner coffee," Beth agrees as her cell phone sounds off. □

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

SHERMAN OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The gals who play the

2 broke girls are cracking each other up. As their interview takes place in late July, Beth

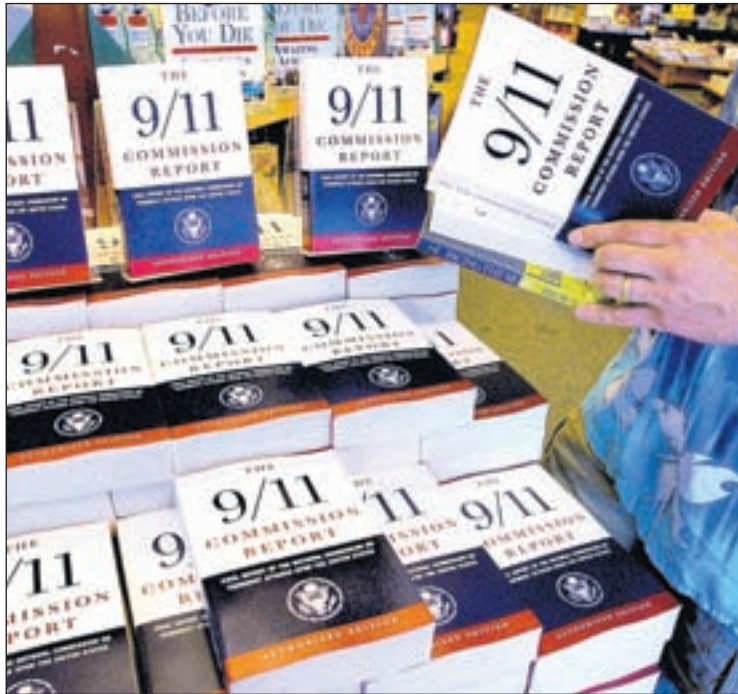
9/11 panel: U.S. remains vulnerable to 'lone wolf'

RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana (AP) — Former members of the 9/11 commission warned Thursday that despite efforts during the last decade to make American cities safer from terrorist attacks, the U.S. has failed to protect itself in at least three key areas and remains vulnerable to cyberterrorism and "lone wolf" terrorists. Committee members said the U.S. must develop better bomb detection technology, has not adequately improved radio equipment to allow police and fire departments nationwide to better communicate and has yet to develop a national identification card that could add another barrier to terrorists trying to slip into the country. Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson said he worries that terrorists from afar could hack into computers, crippling banks, businesses and key utilities while throwing the nation into disarray. "You read stories day after day about some 18-year-old Romanian hacker getting in and playing havoc with banks, public offices, so think about what some of the rogue state actors might be doing," Thompson said. Thompson and eight other

members of the 10-member 9/11 commission disbanded in 2004 after recommending steps the nation could make to ward off terrorism gathered on the Indiana University campus for a two-hour discussion before about 800 students and others. The wide-ranging discussion led by moderator Ken Bode included several commissioners recalling the important role that the families of those who died in the terrorists attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania played in prodding Congress to form the panel.

Jamie Gorelick, who served as deputy attorney general under President Bill Clinton, said the families of many of nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks closely watched the commission's work because they wanted answers that could prevent a repeat of the attacks. "The effect of the families being very engaged in what we were doing was very profound," she said. "We asked the tough questions because we knew the people were watching us. ... We very much felt that the weight of history was on our shoulders." Slade Gorton, a former U.S. Sen. from Washington, also credited the 9/11 families



A patron of the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Springfield, Ill., reads a copy of the "The 9/11 Commission Report." We are safer, but not safe enough. In the decade since the 9/11 attacks, the government has taken giant steps to protect the nation from terrorists, spending eye-popping sums to smarten up the federal bureaucracy, hunt down enemies, strengthen airline security, secure U.S. borders, reshape America's image and more. Former members of the 9/11 commission warned Thursday that despite efforts during the last decade to make American cities safer from terrorist attacks, the U.S. has failed to protect itself in at least three key areas and remains vulnerable to cyberterrorism and "lone wolf" terrorists.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman, File)

with getting both the panel formed and making sure all the key questions were addressed. "They were on our backs the whole time. They wanted accountability. They certainly spurred our activities," Gorton said. Some of the former com-

mission members lamented the lack of the same non-partisan, unified spirit that swept across the nation in the wake the 2001 attacks, saying the nation needs

that same passionate commitment now with the current partisan divisions in Washington. "I don't think we can be safe if we are as divided as we are today," Gorelick said. Commission members said many of their recommendations are now reality but that some key ones — including better communications for police and fire — are still undone a decade later. "Lives were lost on 9/11 because the police and fire could not talk to each other. That is still true today in most of America. Ten years later, Congress has not settled on a solution," Thompson said.

"Ten years is long enough." Thompson also said that hijackers like those who crashed planes in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania could still get state IDs today despite efforts to create uniform standards for identification. He said the 9/11 Commission's 2004 report called for federal identification standards, but that those haven't succeeded because of civil liberties concerns and states' desire to guard their own processes. □

Striking prediction: an abundance of U.S. oil

TOM FOWLER

© 2010 Houston Chronicle

A new report that predictably found huge potential natural gas supplies in the U.S. also contained news its own writers found surprising - that oil is more abundant than they thought. The study released Thursday by the National Petroleum Council, a collection of industry, academic, government and other officials convened by the secretary of energy, touted how advanced technology has unlocked vast formations of natural gas previously deemed uneconomic to

tap. But the report also said the same drilling and production techniques that opened up shale gas - combined with success in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico, the Canadian oil sands and even surges in conventional oil onshore - are improving the nation's potential to be more self-reliant for oil, according to the report. "Contrary to conventional wisdom the North American oil resource base also could provide substantial supply for decades ahead," the report said. By 2035, oil from shale for-

mations - also referred to as "tight oil" - could produce 2 million to 3 million barrels of oil per day. That includes plays such as the Bakken shale in the Northern U.S. and the Eagle Ford shale in South Texas. Under the most optimistic assumptions the U.S. and Canada combined could produce up to 22.5 million barrels per day, the study concludes. But that isn't likely to wean the U.S. off oil imports from overseas, the report warns, as its current daily demand already is 22.5 million barrels per day. □

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In this image released by Fox, judges, from left, Nicole Scherzinger, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, and L.A. Reid attend "The X Factor" screening at the Arclight Cinerama Dome in Los Angeles. The series premiere airs on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. EST on FOX.

(AP Photo/FOX, Frank Micelotta)

'X Factor' goes X-rated as singer's pants drop

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On "American Idol," a contestant performed "Pants on the Ground." On "The X Factor," a singer dropped his pants to the ground and sent Paula Abdul running for cover.

The man auditioned for Fox's new talent contest by performing his original song "I'm a Stud," pulling his pants down and dancing onstage in front of an audience that responded with boos. In a clip shown at a preview Wednesday night, a graphic of the show's stylized "X" was superimposed over his crotch.

The man, identified as Geo, may have thought underwear was optional.

A grimacing Abdul got up and retreated backstage. Fellow judge Nicole Scherzinger covered her eyes and then, like a spectator at an accident scene, took a peek from between her fingers. Panelist Antonio "L.A." Reid didn't mince words, calling the display disgusting, upsetting and offensive.

"Get him out of the building, please," Reid concluded.

After the man was shooed offstage and Abdul returned, series creator and judge Simon Cowell chided her for deserting her colleagues. She responded that she didn't want to look at a "hairy ass."

The scene was part of a preview Wednesday night of segments from two episodes of "X Factor," which debuts 8 p.m.-10 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 21-22, on Fox. The series is intended as a fall companion to the network's perennial spring hit, "American Idol." A brief shot of the contestant, standing pantless, was included in a promotional trailer aired Sunday on Fox. □

Uzbek's first daughter looks for love, gets none

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Glamour queen. International diplomat. Plunderer of the poor. Gulnara Karimova has been called all of these things. But all the eldest daughter of Uzbekistan's aging authoritarian leader appears to want is for people to like her.

By the looks of things, that isn't quite working out.

Over the weekend, the producers of New York's Fashion Week canceled a show by Karimova amid pressure from a human rights group. In a face-saving gesture, her backers revived the event Thursday at ultra-chic Cipriani on 42nd Street. Karimova didn't show up, though activists protesting child labor in her homeland did.

Turning up at fashion shows and dropping by at the Cannes Film Festival is part of a carefully nurtured public relations exercise by Karimova, who despite her frivolous image is seen as a possible successor to her father.

On the international scene, she has carved out an image as a fashionable jet-setter.

In her home country, Karimova is feted by official media as an accomplished diplomat, academic and philanthropist devoted to the cause of disadvantaged women and children.

To her many detractors, 39-year old Karimova is a "robber baron" who has ruthlessly used her power to pillage businesses in Uzbekistan and who luxuriates in self-imposed European exile, while many in her country endure crushing poverty. Uzbekistan, a mainly Muslim nation of almost 28 million people, is strategically placed along a key transportation route supplying U.S.-led coalition troops engaged in combating insurgents in neighboring Afghanistan.

It is rich in natural gas and gold, as well as being one of the world largest cotton

producers, making it potentially attractive to investors. Although officially touted as an international stateswoman, Karimova rarely appears to bother herself with such matters.

Her official website con-

movs bedecked in a flowing white dress.

On top of all that, Karimova heads her country's diplomatic mission at the United Nations' office in Geneva, where she lives with her son and daughter.



Gulnara Karimova seen just after a display of creations of 'Guli' collections at the Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia. Turning up at fashion shows and dropping by at the Cannes Film Festival is part of a carefully nurtured public relations exercise by Karimova, who despite her frivolous image is seen as a possible successor to her father, Uzbekistan's aging authoritarian leader Islam Karimov.

(AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel)

veys the image of a care-free fashionista obsessed with gaudy jewelry flitting between charity events in Uzbekistan and gala evenings in Europe. Karimova appears to take inordinate pride in having been photographed with notables including former U.S. President Bill Clinton, singer Elton John, and action film star Steven Seagal.

Another website, Googoo-sha.uz, documents Karimova's short-lived pop career (she sang under name GooGoosha — reputedly her father's favorite nickname for her).

One particularly eye-popping music video depicts a flying sports car wending its way to a palace in verdant mountains, greeted by Kari-

What the Harvard regional studies masters course graduate's websites don't mention are her widely alleged links to obscure Swiss-registered Zeromax GmbH, a failed holding company widely believed to have been under her control.

In a letter to Swiss magazine Le Temps earlier this year, Karimova denied ever having had any ties to Zeromax. Whatever the truth, the slow-motion collapse of Zeromax amid a mountain of debt has set some talking about Karimova's future.

The winding-down of Zeromax is seen by some as a way of definitively erasing Karimova's image as the oligarch and thereby making her more palatable to the general public. □

The view from the train



JOE NOCERA

© 2011 New York Times

I'd been away for a few days, just me and my dog, but Sunday morning I rose early and drove the 100 miles to New York City. On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, I felt a deep need to be with my family. As I began to cross the Triborough Bridge into Manhattan, I could hear the whoosh of police helicopters overhead. I looked up. There were five of them.

Though I had been avoiding most of the television programming around the anniversary, the sound of the helicopters caused the memories to come flooding back. Ten years ago, as an editor at Fortune, my routine was to take the Amtrak every Tuesday from Massachusetts, where I then lived, into Manhattan, and then go back to Massachusetts at the end of the week. At 8:46 a.m. that Tuesday, my train had already left Stamford, Conn., the last stop before Manhattan.

A few miles from Penn Station, with the Manhattan skyline in sight, the train groaned to a stop. From my seat, I could see huge billows of smoke in the distance. I couldn't see one of the Twin Towers. I assumed that it was hidden by the smoke. Passengers began making calls to find out what was going on. We had no television on the train, no Internet access, no radios. Soon we stopped making calls and simply watched, in horror, as the World Trade Center disappeared before our eyes.

I have always considered myself lucky to get into the city that day. Most people trying to get into New York were turned back, but at around 1:30 p.m. we rumbled into Penn Station where we were escorted off the train and out of the building by heavily armed National Guardsmen.

There were some elderly women whose final destination was Norfolk, Va. Standing outside Penn Station, seeing all the shell-shocked New Yorkers trudging uptown, they looked bewildered, utterly lost. I've always wondered what happened to them.

I joined the parade walking uptown. When I arrived at Fortune in Midtown, the editors had just begun a meeting to figure out

how we, a business magazine, were going to cover the terrorist attack. I spent the next three days working furiously on that issue and have rarely felt so happy to be at work. In some small way, it allowed me to feel useful.

I didn't know anyone who died that day. But I can't think of another national tragedy in my lifetime that has affected me as powerfully; this must be how our parents felt when Kennedy was killed – a searing, awful memory that never completely goes away.

On Sunday, New York was a somber city – “solemn” an out-of-town friend said that night over dinner. People went about their business, but we could all hear the helicopters and see the armed police, just like in the days after 9/11. Everyone had their own memories of where they had been, what they had done. I called my three older children, who had been so worried about me that day. My fiancée and I took our baby and our dog to the park. It was filled with parents and children. I wasn't the only one who wanted to spend the day with his family.

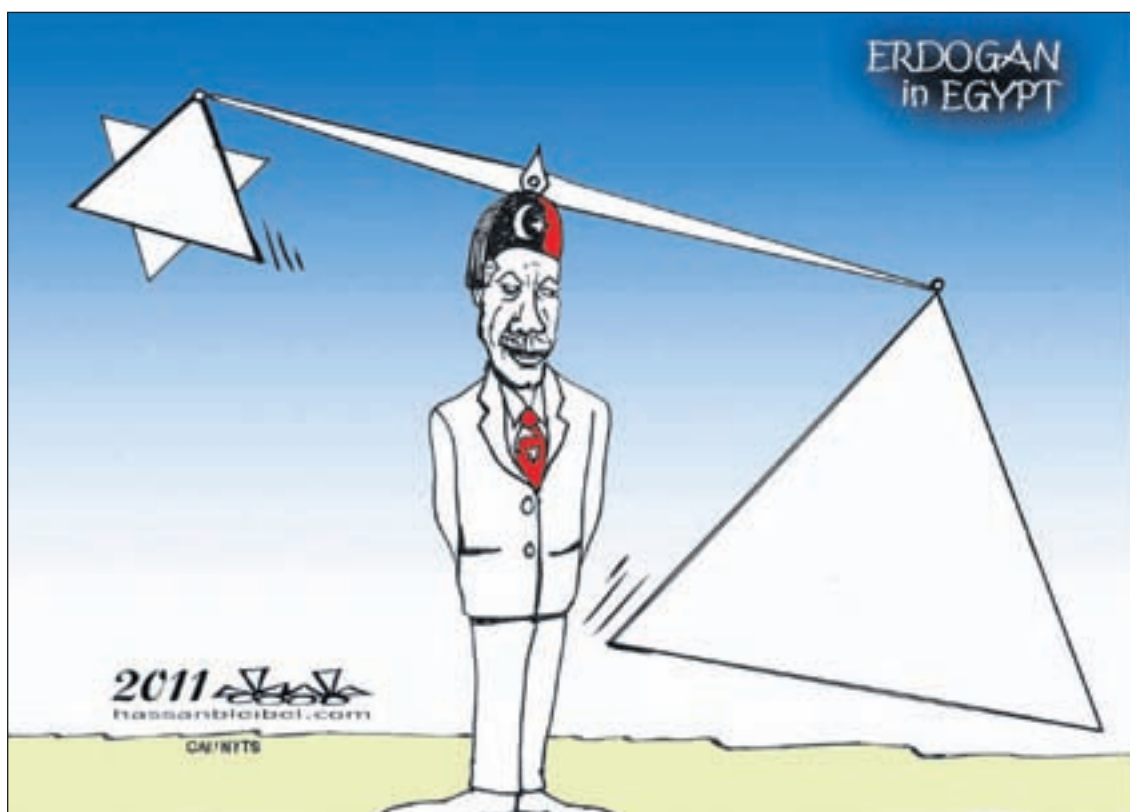
I remember something else about those initial days after the terrorist attack. I'd bump into friends, liberals like me – or so I thought – who were suddenly railing about Muslims, or how the police needed to start racial-profiling and locking up people who “looked suspicious.”

After 9/11, we invaded Afghanistan – justifiably – to take the fight to our enemies. But we also invaded Iraq, an unjustified war for which 9/11 provided the cover. We have killed Osama bin Laden and many other al-Qaida leaders, but 9/11 has also given us waterboarding, Guantanamo, and the gradual erosion of some of our civil liberties, which we foolishly accept in the name of security.

It has given us a new vigilance and important security measures aimed at keeping us safe. But it also put some 400,000 people on no-fly lists, most of them falsely, with no way of getting off. It has given us the Patriot Act – the implication being that anyone who opposes it is unpatriotic. As important as it is to honor the memory of those who died – and to continue the battle against those who would do us harm – we should also acknowledge that we've lost something, as a country, because of 9/11.

On Monday, I took the Acela to Washington. The security was clearly beefed up, with police and police dogs patrolling the train. As we left Penn Station, the conductor came on the intercom. “Please have your I.D. ready,” he said. “We will be checking them.”

The person across from me said, “I've been on this train a million times, and they've never checked IDs.” The person sitting next to me said, “It's fine by me.” When the conductor took our tickets, he didn't ask to see our IDs. I was glad he didn't. □



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON – Not since Saki's cat Tobermory suddenly began speaking, dismissively skewering a British house party of snobs, has a long silence been so blazingly shattered.

The most mysterious, fascinating – and feline – woman in American political history has at long last spoken up. And Jackie Kennedy has plenty to say in that inimitably breathy little voice.

The former first lady talked to historian and courtier Arthur Schlesinger after J.F.K.'s assassination in taped interviews that were sealed for 47 years. Caroline Kennedy is now releasing them as a book and audio recording, “Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life With John F. Kennedy.”

In the 1964 tapes, the 34-year-old widow can be unsparing and caustic (except about her sometimes imperfect husband, whom she bathes in an impossibly perfect glow).

But she maintains her reputation as J.F.K.'s best image wizard, a novelistic observer of history and the most deliciously original, glamorous and compelling political spouse we'll ever see.

Who else would read “War and Peace” during the Wisconsin primary and recommend the “Memoirs of Duc de Saint-Simon” as the best preparation for life in the White House?

Who else could persuade the Egyptians to hand over the Temple of Dendur and the French to lend the Mona Lisa, and rediscover the sidelined HMS Resolute desk for the Oval Office?

Memoirs of a geisha

Who else could talk about “that egomaniac” de Gaulle in one breath and the fact that her husband had Gemini characteristics in the next?

Who else could argue that J.F.K. should be seen as a Whig and as a Greek, not a Roman, and then astutely dissect why the ambassador to Pakistan didn't understand the culture there?

Who else would describe a head of state (the Colombian president, Alberto Lleras Camargo) as “Nordic in his sadness”? Her snobbery was mostly directed at the self-regarding, incompetent, inconsiderate, hypocritical and power crazed – and at anyone she felt was hurting her husband or children.

And even I have to agree with her asperity about the suitability of French cuisine for the White House rather than Irish stew and the tendency of the Irish to have “a persecution thing.”

She loved the patriarch Joe, calling him “Mr. Kennedy,” and, in a phrase ahead of its time, “the tiger mother.”

President Kennedy told her not to get angry at his foes at any given moment, because they might be allies the next. He treated politics like a chessboard, she said. But she was protective of J.F.K., who was often in physical pain and dealing with what she called the first and second Cuba, and she was always on guard against men – and women – who might resist or envy his youth, sex appeal and “ease.” Defending her husband against charges that he was overly concerned with image, she described her own vulnerability when some around J.F.K. wondered if she was too exotic a bird for rough-and-tumble politics.

“I was always a liability to him until we got to the White House,” she told Schlesinger. “And he never asked me to change or said anything about it. Everyone thought I was a snob from Newport, who had bouffant hair and had French clothes and hated

politics. ... Sometimes I'd say, ‘Oh, Jack, I wish – you know I'm sorry for you that I'm just such a dud.’” So, she concluded, “that shows you he wasn't thinking of his image or he would have made me get a little frizzy permanent and be like Pat Nixon.” She was anything but a dud. People around the globe were riveted by her.

Back then, at the dawn of feminism, she had not yet transformed into the working woman who would give an interview to Ms. magazine about how women cannot live through men.

She was a geisha and prided herself on it, saying “It was really a rather terribly Victorian or Asiatic relationship which we had.” When Schlesinger noted “a Japanese wife,” she agreed: “Yeah, which I think's the best.”

She could be cutting about women, calling the earnest Indira Gandhi “a real prune – bitter, kind of pushy, horrible woman” who looked as if she'd “been sucking a lemon” and suggesting in a naughty whisper that Clare Boothe Luce was so macho she must be a lesbian.

She said she considered her main job to be distracting and soothing her husband and making sure the children were in a good mood when the leader of the free world got home. She did not see herself as an Eleanor Roosevelt, wanting to pester him about some pressing political matter. “I remember I said it in an interview once,” she recalled, “and all these women – we got all these irate letters – someone said, ‘Where do you get your opinions?’” And I said, “I get all my opinions from my husband.”

Which is true. How could I have any political opinions, you know? His were going to be the best. And I could never conceive of not voting for whoever my husband was for.”

But the young Jacqueline Kennedy underestimated herself in those dark days long ago. She had plenty of opinions of her own, tart and tantalizing. □

Final night of NY Fashion Week features big names

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marc Jacobs. Calvin Klein. Ralph Lauren. Spring previews wrapped up Thursday at New York Fashion Week with shows by some of the most influential designers in the business before the industry moves on to the runways of London, Milan and Paris.

Lauren's show always

ture in the hands of Jeffrey Monteiro. He was chosen almost two years ago to revive the line after years of tough going for the company.

He showed familiar, impeccably tailored navy coats and blazers, but underneath a navy twill pea-coat was a bandeau top. A white halter jumpsuit had no back at all. A number of looks for evening exposed

bag and ivory sandal is a lot harder to pull off than something dripping with decoration.

"He's so renowned for desirable, memorable and modern clothes," said Glenda Bailey, editor in chief of Harper's Bazaar.

Virginia Smith, fashion market director at Vogue, added: "It's sort of Ralph Lauren's world and we're living in it."



Models walk in the finale of the spring 2012 Ralph Lauren Collection during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

seems to come at the right time, when the exhausted crowd needs a breath of fresh elegance after eight days of non-stop fashion.

They got it this time around with Lauren's loose "Great Gatsby" silhouettes and wide-legged pants and shorts suits, some paired with men's ties that looked more Tom than Daisy.

The pale palette shimmered in soft pinks, silvers, whites and greens. It was a distinct departure from the bursts of bright color and less-dainty florals that dominated eight days of shows for editors, stylists and retailers.

Feathers in boas were carried over to the neck and hemlines of flapper dresses in outfits complete with hats of the era.

Another classic American brand, Bill Blass, preserved the past and forged a fu-

an equal amount of skin.

As soon as the Lincoln Center tents come down, London Fashion Week begins Friday.

RALPH LAUREN

The intersection of sportswear and elegance happens on the Ralph Lauren runway. It gives him a place on the American fashion scene like no one else.

There was a feminine hint of ruffle in a floral print, optic white menswear suits, luxe liquidlike fabrics and Deco beading were all part of Lauren's reimagining of '20s style. Lauren showed great skill in balancing simple shapes the hardest thing to do well — with glamorous details: an ostrich feather scarf here or beaded bag there. The ivory skirt suit with a hammered-satin tank top, accessorized with an embroidered linen clutch

She especially liked the gowns — the knockout floral lame and the off-the-shoulder goddess style — among them. "They were a tour de force."

The catwalk featured more dressy styles than Lauren has recently turned out.

Olivia Wilde had the coveted seat next to the Lauren family. They always gather en masse in the front row. She seemed to show particular interest in the robin's egg-blue georgette dress with beading on one hip. How fast can the Lauren team get that gown on the plane for Sunday's Emmy Awards?

BILL BLASS Other interesting accents? A shirt tail hem on a black racerback tank, trailing gracefully behind the wearer, and a black organza top with an accordion pleat back. □



The J. Mendel Spring 2012 collection is modeled during Fashion Week, in New York.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)



The Spring 2012 Guli collection is modeled Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in New York.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)